BUSINESS/ B1

BIR surpasses August collection

NEWS/ A18

2 RP activists deported by Singapore

WORLD / A22

Syria probes attack on US Embassy, accuses US of fueling terrorism

NEWS / A2

Vice Gov Recto tagged in attack on Batangas governor

ACROSS / A15

Nurse exec linked to illegal recruitment

Chinese justice for all at the click of a mouse

HI-TECH JUSTICE!

BEIJING—A COURT IN China has been using a software program to help decide prison sentences in more than 1,500 criminal cases, a Hong Kong newspaper said on Wednesday.

CHINESE/ A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Thursday, September 14, 2006 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 278 P18 website: www.inq7.net

2 Aussie pilots refuse to take off shoes at Naia

By Nikko Dizon

TWO AUSTRALIAN PILOTS OF A PASSENGER airline bound for Sydney refused to take off their shoes at the final security checkpoint at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Terminal 1 late Tuesday night. Their reason: The airport's floor is dirty.

Airport authorities and the Airline Operators

2 AUSSIE/ A17

Senate-PCGG showdown

Sabio: I won't answer questions at hearing

By TJ Burgonio

POSITIONS APPEAR TO HAVE HARDENED IN THE SHOWdown between the Senate and the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

More than 24 hours after he was arrested and detained by the Senate for snubbing its inquiry into the alleged losses of government-sequestered corporations, Camilo Sabio, 70, declared he would not yield to senators at today's hearing.

The otherwise soft-spoken PCGG chair, who had been afflicted with unstable blood pressure since his arrest on Tuesday morning, confirmed he would appear at the 1 p.m. hearing by the Senate committees on government corporations and public services.

"[But] I will not be compelled. Nobody can compel me to answer questions," Sabio told reporters outside the room at the Senate clinic and medical services department where he had been held since his arrest at his office.

"I will stand on that. It's a matter of principle for me to follow the law. I'll follow the law, but I will not answer questions," he said, indicating that he would invoke Executive Order No. 1 which says PCGG officials cannot be required to testify in legislative, judicial and administrative proceedings.

EO 1, issued by President Corazon Aquino in 1986, created the PCGG.

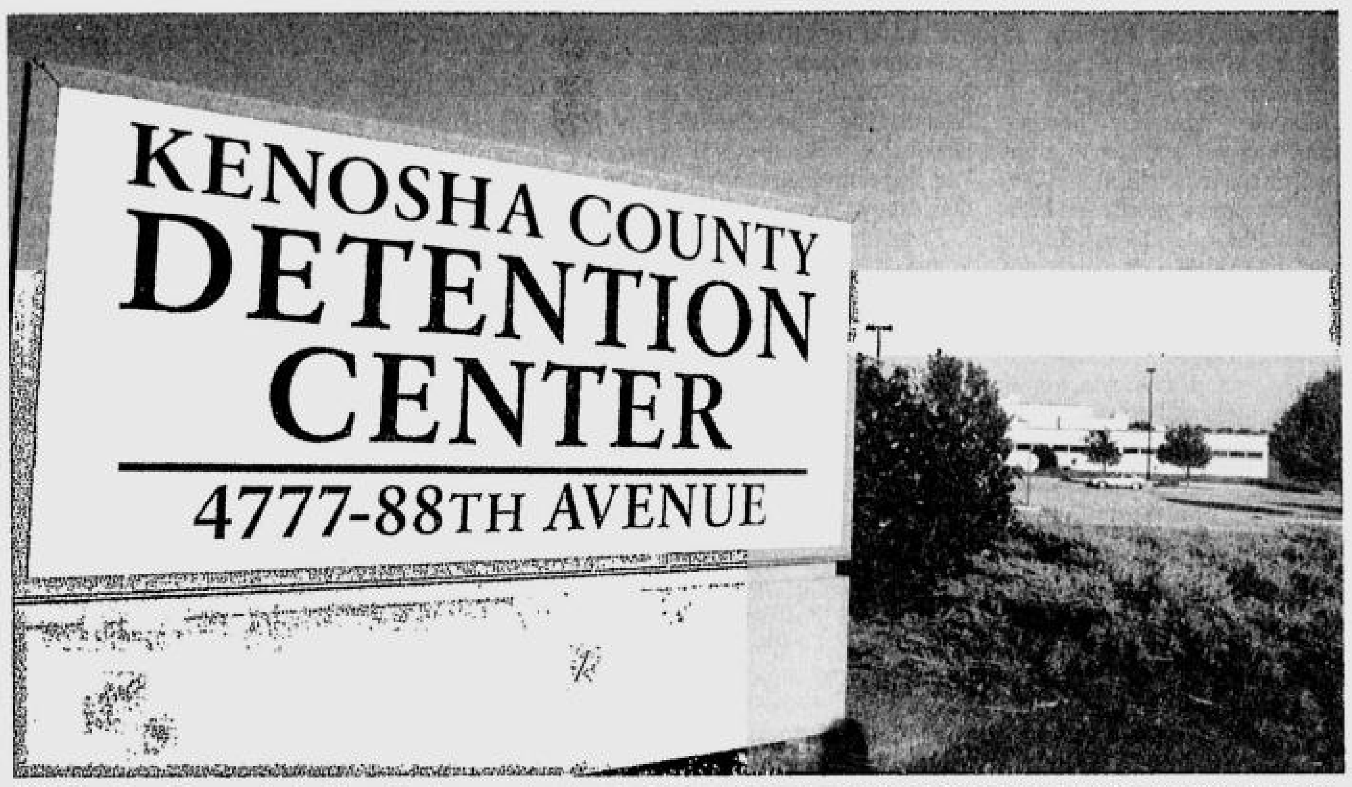
But Aquino told reporters yesterday that EO 1 was not meant to exempt PCGG officials from congressional inquiries.

She said that during her term, PCGG officials were allowed to attend hearings as long as they were informed of the topics to be discussed.

Aquino also said there was a difference between the Senate then and now.

"In my day, all I asked of Congress was to clarify to us when the inquiries would be so the officials could prepare. If the officials were abroad, another date could

SENATE/ A10



THIS is where former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante is being detained by US immigration officials. Kenosha County is 96 km away from Chicago.

MANNY ZAMBRANO/PHILIPPINE WEEKLY, CHICAGO

Joc-joc takes on Condi in freedom bid

By Philip C. Tubeza

IT'S JOC-JOC BOLANTE VS. CONDI Rice.

Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante is taking on US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, naming her and other ranking US government officials as respondents in his petition to gain freedom in the United States.

In a 26-page petition for a writ of habeas corpus, Bolante asked a Wisconsin district court to order Rice, US Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and other US officials to release him from custody.

The former Philippine agriculture undersecretary said his continued detention at Kenosha county in Wisconsin and the decision of the US Embassy in Manila to revoke his B1/B2 visa were illegal.

"The revocation of his visa was contrary to material and formal requirements of a lawful revocation and it has been determined that he is not an intending immigrant pursuant to (the US Immigration and Nationality Act),"

JOC-JOC/ A9

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo answers a question as European Commission President Jose Barroso listens during Tuesday's joint press conference in Brussels, Belgium.

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

Bolante made fortune selling memorial plans

By Fe Zamora

SPECIAL REPORT

JOCELYN "JOC-JOC" BOLANTE USED TO MAKE A LIVing selling services for the dead that had made him wealthy beyond his wildest dreams.

That's why when he joined President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration in 2001, friends and relations scratched their heads.

"I even asked him, what for? *Magulo yan* (There's trouble there)," says his elder brother, Vicente Junior, a government retiree.

Today, Bolante, 55, is engulfed in Ms Arroyo's worst

BOLANTE/ A8

UNDATED photo of Bolante with a Capiz provincial official. Bolante kin say government job a mistake.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

EC expresses concern over RP political killings

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

BRUSSELS—THE EUROPEAN COMMISsion yesterday expressed concern over a surge in extrajudicial killings in the Philippines and welcomed President Macapagal-Arroyo's moves to investigate the murders.

Ms Arroyo met with EC President Jose Manuel Barroso at the EC headquarters in Berlaymont Building. After the 30-minute meeting, the two officials conducted a press conference.

Barroso said that the political slayings were "a matter of concern" and that Ms Arroyo's creation of the commission headed by former Supreme Court Justice Jose Melo was "a first step toward finding proof."

"We welcomed her intention to crack down on extrajudicial killings by creating a commission of inquiry and taking steps to investigate these cases rapidly. I believe that doing so will further enhance the Philippines' standing as serious on human rights globally and more importantly within Asia," Barroso said.

He said that while the European Commission applauded Ms Arroyo's decision to abolish the death penalty, the rash of unresolved murders of journalists and political activists under her watch leaves much to be desired.

"We had to fight terrorism, as you know well our position on that matter, but we have to fight terrorism respecting values of human democracy," Barroso said.

He said the European Commission accepted Ms Arroyo's invitation to send monitoring teams to the Philippines to assess the situation. "We should put monitors in those countries that are able to receive them," Barroso said.

He also said the European Commission and its member-states would extend assistance to the Philippines, particularly in strengthening the judiciary."

Reuters news agency said that the

EUROPEAN/ A9

Tourists urged to have blast in Batanes

AN IVATAN fisherman readies to cast his net unmindful of the pounding surf in Ivana, Batanes.

BLANCHE S. RIVERA

By Blanche S. Rivera

BATAN ISLAND, BATANES—THE PROvincial government hopes that in time, a blessing will finally emerge from the wind and rain that constantly lash these storm-battered islands.

Unfamiliar to foreigners and unchartered by most Filipinos, Batanes, a cluster of seven islands on the northern tip of the Philippines, has practically been nothing more than a reference point for the weather bureau.

And its reputation as being "in the eye of the storm" has cost the province much-needed investments over the years, according to Vice Gov. Constante Castillejos.

"The problem is that Pagasa (Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration) has made us a reference point for typhoons, and [investors] shy away from typhoons," he told the INQUIRER during a recent visit to the province.

But Castillejos is hoping the curse would soon become a come-on for tourists who thrive on adventure, and

TOURISTS/ A5

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern and Eastern Luzon, Eastern Visayas and Eastern Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/09/13/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Second FrontPage

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Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Recto tagged in attack on gov

Esperon: It's over for Lim, Querubin military careers

By Dona Pazzibugan

IT IS OVER FOR DISMISSED FIRST Scout Ranger Regiment commander, Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, and Marine Col. Ariel Querubin as far as their military careers are concerned.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said there would be no "second chance" for Lim and Querubin after they let themselves become involved in yet another attempt to overthrow the government.

Neither can other officers from elite units found to have been involved in the Feb. 24 coup plot expect leniency from Esperon.

"I believe General Lim has been given enough chances. So were the others. As for Col. Querubin, I have respect for warriors. But warriors are also punished," said Esperon who addressed the Manila Overseas Press Club recently.

"We assure you that we will apply the full force of the law," he said.

Lim and Querubin were among the leaders of the Young Officers Union that staged the bloody December 1989 coup d'etat in which 50 soldiers and civilians were killed and another 570 wounded.

Lim, who was a captain at the time, led the week-long siege of the Makati business district while Querubin was among those who laid siege to the military's general headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo.

The two were detained in the coup aftermath but were released and allowed to return to military service in 1995 after the government offered a general amnesty for all coup plotters, including the leader of the 1989 coup, the then Lt. Col. Gregorio Honasan.

"[Lim] was given the position of [Scout Rangers] regiment commander and he was promoted to brigadier general by the same President he wants to call a bogus President. Is he saying his promotions were bogus?" Esperon said.

He said Querubin, a recipient of the Medal of Valor, would have gotten his star rank in a few months' time.

"I don't think past glories can ever be an excuse for going out of bounds. They have committed offenses that violated the Articles of War, therefore they must answer for their transgressions," Esperon said.

Army chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino shared Esperon's stand on coup plotters.

"*Wala na kaming patatawarin* [No one will be given amnesty]. They're finished in the military," Tolentino said.

Lim and 24 of his officers are detained at Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal, while undergoing investigation for possible court martial.

Querubin, former Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda and 11 other mostly senior Marine officers are detained in the Bonifacio Naval Station in Fort Bonifacio.

Esperon said even the junior officers involved in the Feb. 24 plot would get no leniency from him.

"Lim was also a captain in 1989. Transpose that to the captains now. We will not give them another chance. We will let military justice take its due course," he said.

Esperon said the military would proceed very carefully with the trial of the soldiers.

"We want to be very sure of what we are doing... We want due process so when the punishment is handed down, those who are guilty will be given the punishment they deserve," he said.

Slay try linked to coup plot, says Gonzalez

By Marlon Ramos, *Inquirer Southern Luzon* and Armand Nocum

CALAMBA, LAGUNA—THOUGH he initially dismissed suggestions that his vice governor may have been behind the foiled attempt on his life, Batangas Gov. Armando Sanchez is now convinced that his political rival allegedly masterminded the bomb attack that killed two of his aides last June.

Sanchez will personally appear today before Batangas City prosecutor Leona Castillo to file frustrated murder and murder charges against Vice Gov. Richard Recto, said his lawyer Ronaldo Geron.

The governor narrowly escaped death when his Hummer H2 sports utility vehicle exploded shortly after it left the provincial capitol on the evening of June 1.

The two explosions ripped through the vehicle but Sanchez was able to jump out before the second blast. He suffered burns but his policeman bodyguard and driver were killed.

When contacted by the INQUIRER, Recto said he was advised by his lawyer to wait for the formal charges to be filed before giving his comment.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday said the bomb attack on Sanchez was the handiwork of rebel Magdalo soldiers involved in the failed Feb. 24 coup.

RECTO

Gonzalez, who heads the inter-agency task force investigating the Feb. 24 coup plot, said the panel would be announcing its findings today and would recommend the indictment of 12 civilians and military officers for allegedly participating in the plot.

"The failed coup last Feb. 24 and the destabilization are connected to the ambush of Sanchez," Gonzalez said, adding that the task force has obtained information that big politicians paid the Magdalo soldiers P3 million to carry out the assassination.

He said the Sanchez ambush was intended to show that government was helpless in maintaining peace and order and that the enemies of the state had already succeeded in sowing terror and violence.

Gonzalez would not divulge the names of the 12 to be prosecuted on charges ranging from coup d'etat to rebellion, but hinted that "high profile civilians" like influential businessmen are included in the charge sheet.

Geron said that among the witnesses in the cases to be filed by Sanchez are Army 1Lt. Patricio Bumidang and Navy Lt. Kiram Sadava.

The two were members of the rebel Magdalo group of soldiers which later called themselves the Makabayang Kawal Pilipino (KMP).

Geron said two security officers at the Batangas capitol who claimed to have seen the suspected Magdalo members roaming around the capitol premises moments before the explosions would also serve as witnesses.

Bumidang and Saudava, who are in the custody of the Army's Intelligence Security Group, executed affidavits at the ISG office in Fort Bonifacio on Sept. 12.

In his affidavit, Sadava told of a plan to assassinate Sanchez being discussed at a meeting in a rebel safe house in April 2006. He said Sanchez was to be assassinated so Recto would become governor and be able to help fund the Magdalo group.

He quoted a certain Angie as saying that Recto had already given an initial payment and would give the balance upon completion of the job. He did not specify the amounts.

In his affidavit, also dated Sept. 12, Bumidang said he was at a meeting at a house in La Vista, Quezon City, in March 2006, in which Recto was also present.

According to Bumidang, when he asked what Recto was doing there, he was told that the vice governor would be helping the group with funds.

He also remembered Gay asking if a pound of C-4 could destroy a Humvee. He told Gay it was Sadava who would know, at which point Gay called Sadava who said a pound of C-4 could indeed do the job.

According to Bumidang, when he asked Gay why he wanted to know, Gay said it was because a Humvee was the vehicle that Sanchez used often.

Geron said Sanchez was convinced of the statements of the witnesses "because it specifically detailed some incidents before the bombing."

"As a lawyer, I think the evidence we have and the statements of the witnesses will stand in court. The case is strong," he said. *With a report from Alcuin Papa*

Former AFP chief Nazareno dies at 63

FORMER ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF Gen. Joselin Nazareno died early yesterday due to complications from liver cancer. He was 63.

Nazareno, who served under former president Joseph Estrada, had slipped into a coma for a day and a half at the Makati Medical Center before he succumbed at around 4 a.m. yesterday, his son Jonner said.

The general is survived by his three children, Jomini, 26, Jonner, 25, and Jollie, 24 who were at his bedside at the time of his death. His wife Minerva died three years ago due to breast cancer.

"He wasn't in pain. He was heavily medicated," Jonner recalled.

Nazareno's remains were brought yesterday to the Evangelical Church inside the military headquarters in Camp Aguinaldo for a wake and military honors.

Nazareno was diagnosed with lung cancer in 2001. He underwent radiation therapy and was eventually cleared of the disease.

But in late 2005, Nazareno was diagnosed with liver cancer and underwent chemotherapy.

Dona Z. Pazzibugan

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GMA backtracks, won't sign pact on int'l court

By Gil Cabacungan

BRUSSELS (VIA PLDT)—PRESIDENT MACApagal-Arroyo has wavered at the last minute on the suggestion of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago to declare the Philippines intention to finally sign the Rome Statute creating the International Criminal Court even at the expense of losing military aid from the US which has opposed from the pact.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that the President did not raise the issue in her meeting with European Union officials on Tuesday. "The Philippines remains non-committal to the pact as the President believes the country needs more time to observe how the system works," Bunye said.

Defensor claimed that the President had agreed to bare the country's support for the ICC the day before the EU meeting.

The President is in Brussels to win back Europe's leaders who have been growing skeptical on her administration's human rights records and Europe's businessmen critical of the country's poor record in honoring contracts, particularly the void Ninoy Aquino International Air Terminal 3 of Fraport AG.

In an interview, Defensor said that the President's change of heart on the issue was influenced by the decision of Latin American countries to join the ICC and subsequently resulted in the loss of aid from the US.

"The Latin American countries got no more aid from the US after ratifying the Rome Statute. But China stepped into the shoes of the US and promptly gave the Latin American countries more aid than they were getting before."

The Philippines had originally been a strong adherent of the ICC at the Rome summit in 2002 but it held back signing the document when its ally, the US opposed the pact because it would encroach on its national sovereignty and that it might be used for politically motivated prosecutions.

Defensor noted that the US Congress passed the American Service members' Protection Act (ASPA) which has a provision barring the US from providing military aid to countries which had ratified the treaty. Some countries whose pipelines to military aid were cut include Brazil, Costa Rica, Peru, Venezuela, Ecuador, and South Africa.

Guimaras readies charges vs Petron, Solar I officials

By Nestor P. Burgos
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT of Guimaras is readying criminal charges against executives of Petron Corp. and the owners of the sunken tanker Solar I, which spilled over a million liters of bunker fuel oil along its coast, threatening the livelihood and health of its people.

Lawyer Plaridel Nava II, provincial legal officer, said they will cite the officials of Petron and the Sunshine Maritime Development Corp. (SMC), for violation of Republic Act 9275 (Clean Water Act of 2004), Republic Act 8749 (Clean Air Act of 1999) and Republic Act 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000).

The tanker sank 13.3 nautical miles southwest of Nueva Valencia town on Aug 11. It has contaminated 58 barangays in four towns in Guimaras and two towns in Iloilo. Some 40,000 persons have been affected and at least one death has been directly linked to the fumes released by the oil spill.

Guimaras Gov. JC Rahman Nava said they are studying the statement of the Department of Justice task force investigating the oil spill, which cleared Petron of any criminal liabilities.

"It might have preempted the case we plan to file," the governor told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

No posting yet for Palparan; another retired general gets NSA job

MALACAÑANG HAS APPOINTED retired Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay as deputy National Security Adviser for counter-insurgency operations, a position earlier reserved for controversial newly retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita confirmed yesterday that Cabuay and not Palparan will get the position.

Ermita said the Palace was still looking for an "appropriate" position for Palparan, who retired early this week from the military with communist insurgents vowing to go after him for allegedly being behind extrajudicial killings of militants in the country.

"Definitely, (Palparan) will have an appointment," he told reporters. "We will see to it that his future is well-taken care of."

Asked whether Palparan's new job will still have to do with counter-insurgency, the executive secretary said he could not say for now.

He said though that they could find a good position for Palparan, as he noted that it was within the power of President Macapagal-Arroyo to create new offices or positions depending on the needs of the government.

This as Ermita dismissed apprehensions of human rights groups protesting that the eventual appointment of Palparan to a new position in government dealing with the renewed offensive against the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army would see more cases of human rights violation.

"That's their own opinion of the fellow," he said.

Ermita said that while so much criticism had been hurled against Palparan, he challenged those groups to come out with evidence against the general, especially since the newly formed Melo Commission has started to do its task of looking into the extrajudicial killings of militants and journalists. *Christine O. Avendaño*

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Adele Joaquin-Kalwas
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Encarnacion Joaquin
88 years old

[1] Meister A. Cancer Res 1994 54(S):1969-1975.

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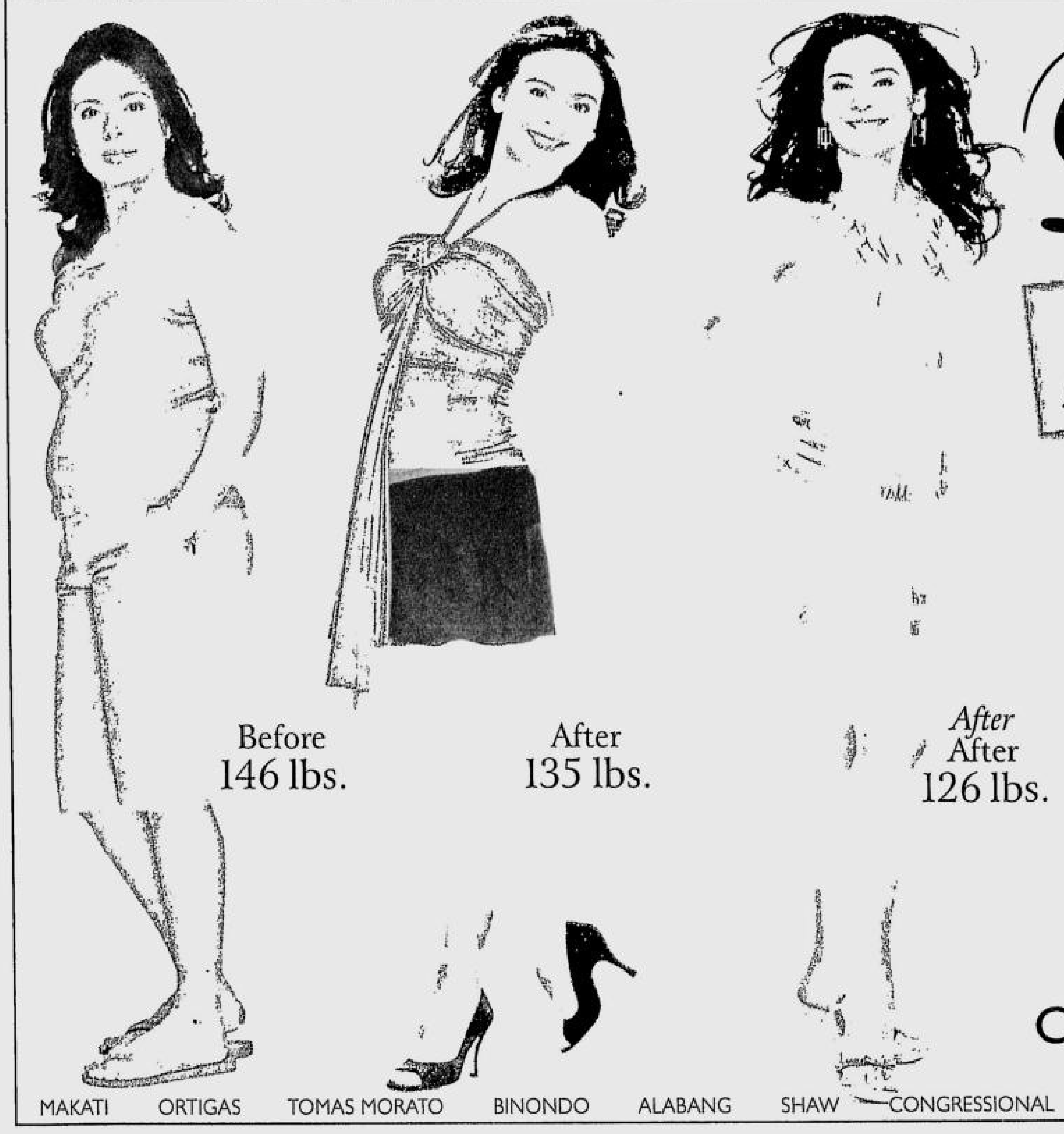

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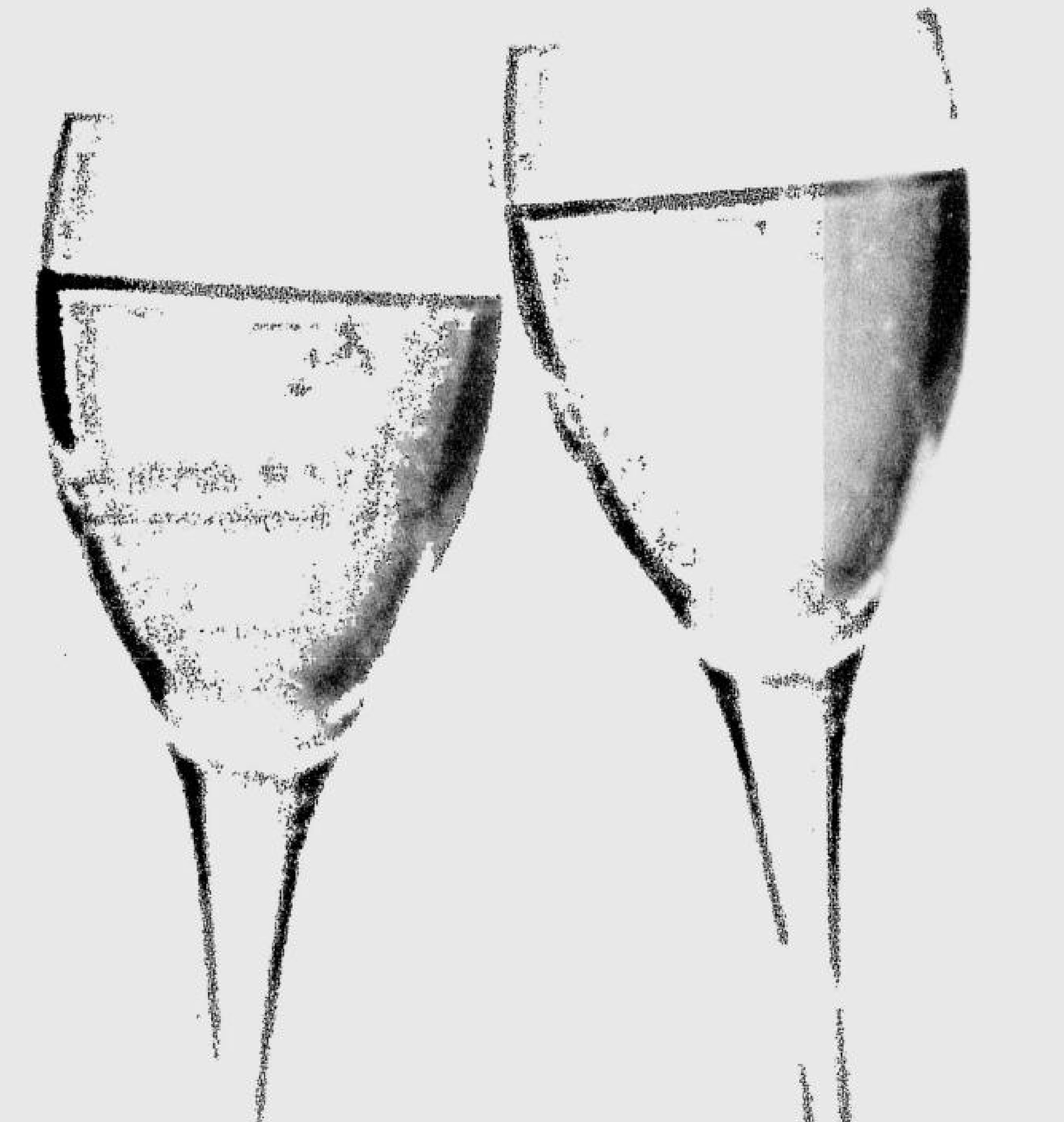

'Livin' it up for you... at 18"

THE
LANDMARK

Per DTI NCR Permit # AI - 750 Series of 2006

Tourists urged to have a blast in Batanes

From page A1

who may want to experience exactly what it's like living with 200 kph winds and riding a *faluwa* (a local boat) over giant waves formed by three converging currents.

"Tourists would want to see the brunt of the typhoons. They will stay here. The negative can be used to our advantage," Castillejos said.

Postcard-pretty

Less than 2,000 tourists were documented to have visited Batanes last year, a pity considering the sights—and insights—that this postcard-pretty place offers.

Batanes is known for its centuries-old stone houses and churches, lush hills and cliffs, and friendly folk called Ivatan. But few are aware that the frequent storms have developed a people so attuned to nature that they do not need a weather bureau to tell them when the wind will bring bad news.

"It's different here from Manila, where even 30 kph winds can swoop down and destroy the shanties in, say, Tandang Sora," said Castillejos, who once lived near the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, where he studied for a master's degree.

"Here, you have houses that have withstood storms. The walls are thick. The people here are prepared. They know when a storm's coming," he said.

So much so that when Pagasa raises Signal No. 2 or 3 in Batanes, a housewife tending her *sari-sari* store would not close shop for the day and a fisherman preparing to go out to sea would most likely proceed to get his catch.

"It's just Signal No. 2. That's nothing," Leonardo Hostallero, a councilor in the municipality of Ivana, said as Pagasa raised a storm signal over the province and text messages started coming in from Manila, warning this reporter and friends that it was unsafe to stay because another storm was headed here.

Drizzle, soft breeze

"If you go to Batanes in July or August, better bring all your clothes and a resumé because you're likely to spend Valentine's Day there," a Pagasa official once joked.

But Hostallero was actually correct.

Apart from a drizzle and a soft breeze, Storm Signal No. 2 did nothing to Batanes. The games and carabao fight for Basco's 221st fiesta pushed through, and the Asian Spirit flight the next day was hardly delayed, much less cancelled.

(But municipal workers and students often get a break when storm signals are raised because provincial government and Department of Education officials are compelled to suspend classes or work.)

Castillejos travels frequently to Manila. Even when Pagasa officials have raised Signal No. 3 in Batanes, he does not cancel a planned trip home and goes to the Manila domestic airport anyway.

Past experiences have shown that the weather in Batanes as projected in Manila is hardly the way it is in the far-flung province, he said.

"Even the airline knows this," he added. "When there is an announcement in Manila, airline officials simply call their office in Batanes and ask for the wind knots. And they fly when they're told it's safe to fly."

'Happy'

Batanes is almost two hours by plane from Manila. Of its seven islands, only three—Batan, Sabtang and Itbayat—are inhabited. There are only over 15,000 people on the three islands, almost 10,000 of whom are in Batan, according to Castillejos.

"The only time people stay indoors is when they feel that the wind is too strong for them to even walk down the street—and that should be around 180 to 200 kph," Hostallero said.

Beth Valones, a native of Rizal who has lived in Ivana for eight years, said the locals were often "happy" to hear an announcement of a storm because the wind would then be strong enough to cause coconuts to fall and logs to be washed down from the mountains for easy picking.

"You will see people going out to the shores and hillsides during a storm. It doesn't bother them," she said.

No longer a stranger to the province, Valones has found that the more difficult time for Batanes residents is not the typhoon season from June to December but the "winter months" from December to February.

'Vakul'

Then, she said, the temperature could drop so low that "Baguio would seem hot," and going out even with layers and layers of clothing would be an arduous task.

The Ivatan elders usually wear a kind of headdress called "vakul" to protect them from extreme heat and extreme cold.

The vakul is made from a type of grass that grows in Batanes (the same grass used for the native houses' roofs) and has an abaca lining. Some also wear vests made from the same material.

The traditional Ivatan house is made of stone and lime, with walls about a meter thick. Its windows are small and few.

Some houses have a rock with a hole buried deep into the ground nearby. A rope tied through the hole in the rock and connected to the roof serves as an anchor ensuring that the roof would not get blown away during strong typhoons.

Even the two-story modern cement houses intermittently lining the roads of Basco have walls at least half a meter thick to withstand harsh winds.

"People here are used to living with storms," Hostallero declared.

And visitors may have much to learn from living through their own depressions, literally.

AN IVATAN woman wears the traditional "vakul" headdress which protects Batanes residents during the cold and hot seasons. BLANCHE RIVERA

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, September 14, 2006
Triumph of the Cross

1st Reading: Num 21:4-9
Gsopel: John 3:13-17

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "No one has ever gone up to heaven except the one who came from heaven, the Son of Man.

As Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

Yes, God so loved the world that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him may not be lost, but may have eternal life. God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world; instead, through him the world is to be saved."

Commentary

In the ancient Church this was the first day of Lent, the time of turning more intently into the following of Jesus and renewing the ardor of our first devotion to God at our baptisms. Like the people of the desert we speak out against God and are in need of acknowledging our sin, and interceding for one another. We must look upon Jesus the Crucified, without sin, who draws us close to God in his person and presence among us. We belong to the Crucified One, humble and obedient, even unto death. Today we look and bend in worship and gratitude before the depth of the love of God for us... again.

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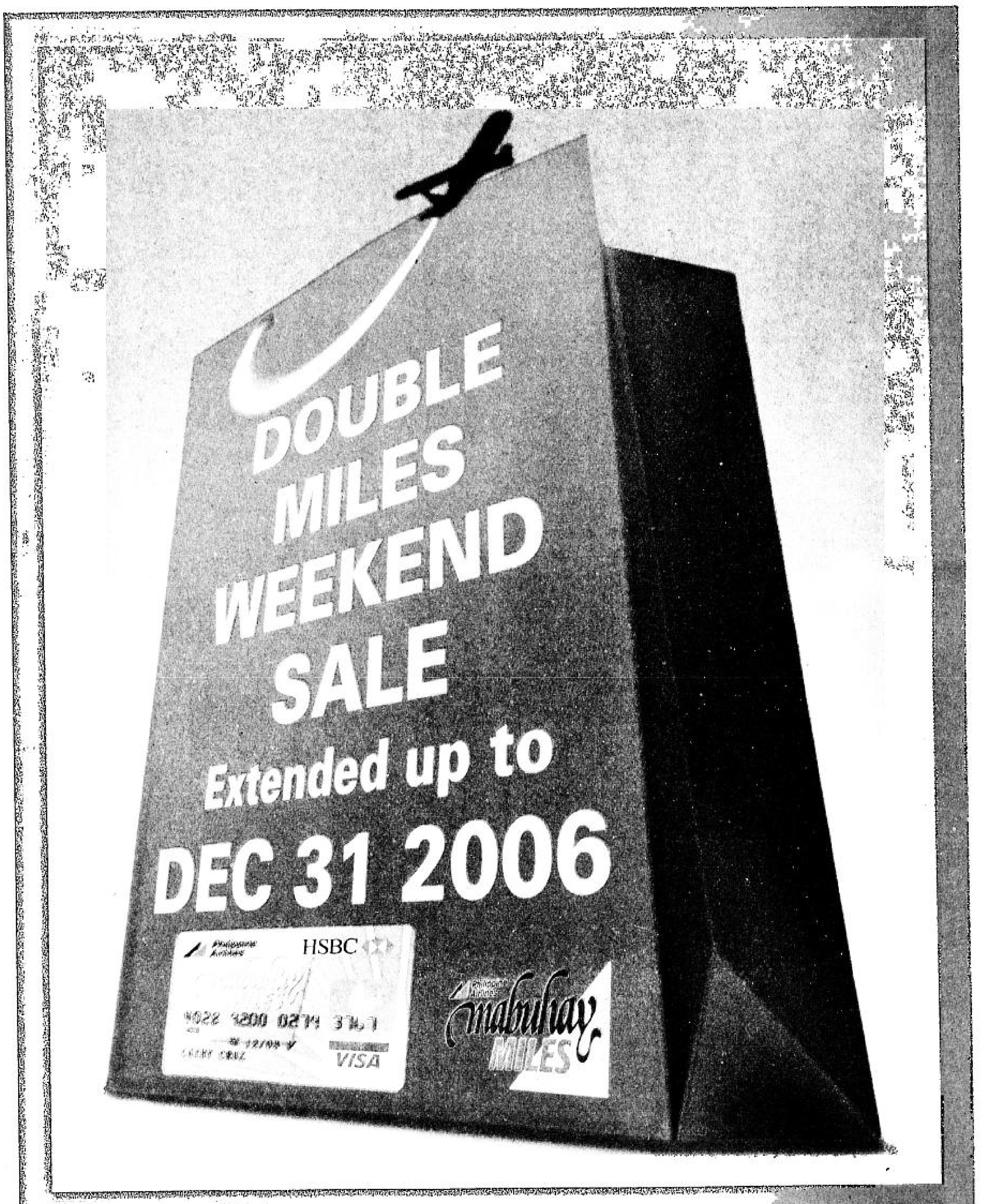

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P47-B supplemental budget OKd

By TJ Burgonio

THE SENATE APPROVED LAST NIGHT THE Malacañang-proposed P46.9-billion supplemental budget for 2006 almost in its entirety, except for some realignment of funds from some agencies to the Department of Education.

Voting 14-0, the senators approved on third and final reading a "line-item budget" that would supplement the P907.56-billion reenacted 2005 budget.

"The biggest winners here are the education sector of the Department of Education and the University of the Philippines," Sen. Franklin Drilon, chair of the finance committee, said in a briefing shortly after the approval of the supplemental outlay.

The biggest appropriation in the budget at P14.8 billion will cover the increase in the internal revenue allotment of local government units.

The DepEd got the second biggest share of P9.581 billion. This amount includes provisions for the hiring of 10,000 new teachers, the building of more public schools and the payment of long-overdue benefits for thousands of school teachers and non-teaching staff.

The other allocations went to the Department of Agrarian Reform, P4.593 billion; Department of Interior and Local Government, P1.375 billion; Department of Science and Technology, P700 million; Department of Social Welfare and Development, P269.5 million; Department of Transportation and Communication, P1.608 billion;

Commission on Elections, P730.236 million; Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund, P4.923 billion; Allocation to Local Government Units, P1.820 billion; Pension and Gratuity Fund, P4.865 billion, and Calamity Fund, P1.117 billion.

The senators however slashed the P500-million standby fund for the repatriation of workers from war-ravaged Lebanon to P50 million after hostilities had stopped following the declaration of a ceasefire.

The P50 million would be added to the P350-million fund of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration for the emergency repatriation of workers.

The senators allocated P1.7 billion for the oil spill off Guimaras Island and P300 million for the rehabilitation of the areas around Mayon Volcano.

Drilon said the senators also appropriated P3.3 billion to cover the deficiency of the national government in unpaid premium payments to the Government Service Insurance System covering the period July 1997 to December 1998.

"We must emphasize the deficiencies in premium contributions is the major source of continuing frustration and disappointment among our thousands of teachers," he said.

The budget of the DOTC was reduced by P2 billion with the deletion of the equity rental fee, while some P14 million was cut from the Professional Regulation Commission's budget after it decided against a retake of the leakage-tainted nursing board exams.

Much of the slashed funds were realigned to the education sector.

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Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

I. The Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) announces the acceptance of applications for the following COURTS:

1. METC Br. 4, Manila
2. MCTC Pililla-Jalajala, Rizal
3. RTC Br. 58, San Jose, Camarines Sur
4. RTC Br. 60, Iriga City
5. RTC Br. 67, Guimbal, Iloilo
6. RTC Br. 2, Borongan, Eastern Samar
7. MCTC Mondragon-San Roque, Northern Samar

Applications must be submitted NOT LATER THAN October 13, 2006. Applicants must also submit to the JBC Secretariat, 2nd Flr. Centennial Bldg., Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Manila (Tel. No. 552-9512 Fax No. 552-9598) 6 copies of each of the following:

Application Letter
Personal Data Sheet (JBC Form 1 down-loadable from the JBC Website http://jbc.supremecourt.gov.ph
Picture (2x2)
Certificate of Good Standing or latest Official Receipt from the IBP National Treasurer
ITR for 2 preceding years
Clearances from NBI, Ombudsman, Office of the Bar Confidant and employer
Transcript of Records
Police Clearance from place of residence
Certificate of Bar Rating

II. The JBC announces that the following are the applicants or recommendees for

A. **Four (4) positions of ASSOCIATE JUSTICE of the COURT OF APPEALS:**

1. ACOSTA, Francisco P.
2. AGLORO, Guillermo P.
3. ALIM, Rose Mary M.
4. ALHAMBRA, Reynaldo A.
5. ARLES, Henry D.
6. AYSON, Ruben C.
7. BABARAN, Raul V.
8. BACLIG, Vivencio S.
9. BALONZO, Freddie D.
10. BARCELONA, Manuel III C.
11. BARINAGA, Sylvia Katherine L.
12. BARRIOS, Manuel M.
13. BERNARDO, Oscar B.
14. BONIFACIO, Rodolfo R.
15. BULIYAT, Francis A.
16. CAÑETE, Ulric R.
17. CHUA, Anita G.
18. CRUZ, Ramon A.
19. CRUZ, Stephen C.
20. CUEVA, Eulogia M.
21. DELOS SANTOS, Edgardo L.
22. DIAMANTE, Franchito N.
23. DOMINGO, Lorna N.
24. DUMAYAS, Winlove M.
25. DUMDUM, Simeon Jr. P.
26. ELBINIAS, Michael P.
27. ERUM, Bernardita G.
28. ESCOBIDO, Jose L.
29. ESPAÑOL, Jose Jr. M.
30. EUGENIO, Antonio Jr. M.
31. FABROS, Amelia A.
32. FAMADOR, Joel M.
33. FRUELDA, Carmelita G.
34. FRANCISCO, Renato C.
35. GACUTAN, Angelita A.
36. GAERLAN, Samuel H.
37. GALVEZ, Danilo P.
38. GANAY, Clifton U.
39. GARRIDO, Crisostomo L.
40. GARVILLES, Edgar G.
41. GENILO Lita S. T.
42. GONZAGA, Agustinus V.
43. GRULLA, Cielito M.
44. HERRERA, Oscar Jr. C.
45. INFANTE, Amelia T.
46. INTING, Socorro B.
47. ITURRALDE, Philbert I.
48. LACAP, Mercedes P.
49. LANTION, Jane Aurora C.
50. LAQUI, Hilario L.
51. LAUREA, Emmanuel D.
52. LLOREN, Edgardo T.
53. MACABANDO, Paca-Ambung C.
54. MACALINO, Florito S.
55. MADRONA, Fortunito L.
56. MAGDOZA, Pablo R.
57. MANGOTARA, Mamidiara P.
58. MARAMBA, Joven M.
59. MARIANO, Rebecca R.
60. MAYO, Manuel A.
61. MEDINA, Adelaida A.
62. NERI, Graciano Jr. B.
63. NIEVES, Wilfredo T.
64. PADERANGA, Sylvia G.
65. PAGUICAN, Pelagio S.
66. PAREDES, Meinrado P.
67. PAREDES, Victoria Isabel A.
68. PATRICIO, Roger B.
69. PAUIG, Vilma T.
70. PE-AGUIRRE, Thelma C.
71. PINTO, Ofelia T.
72. POLOYAPOY, Tirsendo C.
73. QUIAMBAO, Ma. Angelica P.
74. QUERUBIN, Perla B.
75. QUIROZ, Alex L.
76. REGALA, Leah D.
77. REYES, Amor A.
78. ROQUE, Alda R.
79. ROS, Reynaldo G.
80. SADANG, Melchor Quirino C.
81. SESE, Manuel L.
82. SIAYNGCO, Manuel DJ.
83. SORIANO, Andres B.
84. SORIASO, Teresa P.
85. SORONGON, Edwin D.
86. SUAREZ, Leili C.
87. SUING, Jose A.
88. TABLIZO, Romeo A.
89. TANGUANCO, Eduardo I.
90. UMALI, Marivic B.
91. UMALI, Rizalina T.
92. VALENCIA, Marietta H.
93. VILLASOR, Edwin A.
94. YAP, Marilyn B.
95. YBAÑEZ, Elihu A.

B. **MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURT (MCTC): (REGION VIII) - SAN JUAN-ST., BERNARD, SOUTHERN LEYTE: ELLE, Jacinto B.**

The public may submit sworn complaint, written report, or opposition against any of the aforesaid applicants not later than September 24, 2006 to the JBC Secretariat.

III. All applicants for all judicial positions must submit to the JBC Secretariat ASAP via fax, mail or e-mail their updated JBC Form1, current cellphone and landline numbers, and current residence and e-mail addresses.

September 12, 2006

(Sgd.) **MA. LUISA D. VILLARAMA**
Clerk of Court &
Ex Officio Secretary

(PDI - Sept. 14, 2006)

Corrections

IN THE SEPT. 13 ISSUE, THE SCHEDULE OF TURNOVER OF "Guyito" mascots to various schools on Page A6 misstated the name of the artist who painted the sculpture that would be given to Amir Baralidasan National High School in Parang, Maguindanao, on Nov. 24. The artist's name is Tres Roman—not Moran.

* * *

IN the same issue, the front-page banner story—"Senate arrests chair of PCGG"—misstated the name of one of the companies that the Senate is investigating in connection with their alleged losses. The name of the company is Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp.—not Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Communication.

* * *

IN the same issue, a front-page story—"More evidence sought to back Lipa apparition"—misstated the date of the 58th anniversary of the alleged apparition by the Virgin Mary to a Carmelite nun; the 3rd National Pilgrimage of Lipa for Conversion, Consecration and Reparation; and the National Day of Prayer, Reparation and Consecration of Our Nation. The three events were held on Sept. 12—not Sept. 13.

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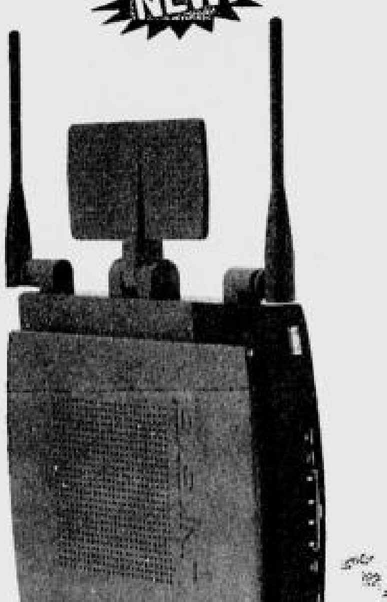

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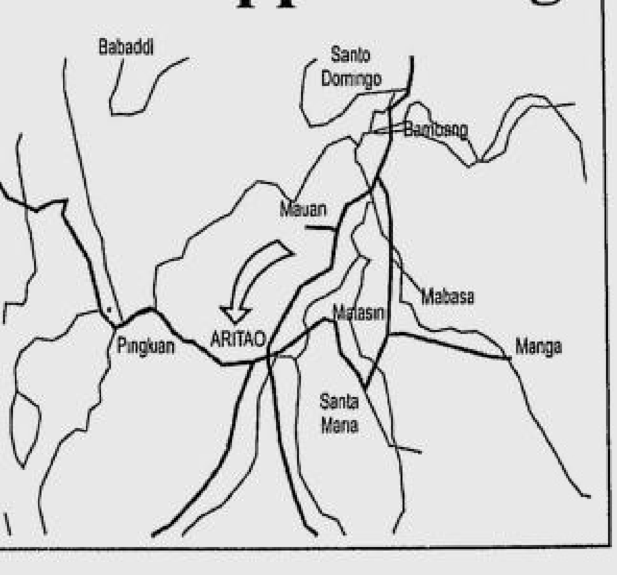

Noli backers join Cha-cha train, say Con-con is way to go

By Norman Bordadora

A CITIZENS' ORGANIZATION that pushed for the presidential candidacy of the then popular broadcaster and now Vice President Noli de Castro in 2004 has joined the Charter change debate, making common cause with the One Voice group in its campaign against a people's initiative and a constituent assembly to change the Constitution.

The Kabayan for President Movement said De Castro's supporters in the organization believe that the best way to make any amendments to the Charter, including a change in the form of government, should be through a constitutional convention of elected delegates.

"Any effort to convene this [the constitutional convention], however, must be preceded by a massive nationwide education campaign and national dialogue," said KPM spokesperson Francisco Catibayan III.

Catibayan said KPM would ask De Castro to adopt their position against a people's initiative and a constituent assembly.

"We will move heaven and earth to convince him to do so. We believe he's genuinely for the people, especially the poor and the marginalized. Cha-cha via the initiative and 'Con-ass' clearly are not," Catibayan said.

Meanwhile, various groups opposed to President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday launched a broad alliance to fight what they called her "illegal, immoral and unconscionable" attempt to change the Constitution through a people's initiative.

The convenors of the still-unnamed opposition alliance include all the familiar names—evangelist and defeated presidential candidate Eddie Villanueva, former social welfare secretary Dinky Soliman, former vice president Teofisto Guingona, former senator Vicente Paterno, impeachment complainant Nini Quezon Avanceña and Bro. Armin Luistro of De La Salle University.

They are the same anti-Arroyo forces that demanded the President's resignation last year, claiming that her wiretapped conversations with Comelec commissioner Virgilio Garcillano showed that she had allegedly cheated to win in 2004.

Villanueva said the new alliance was different "because it is led by convenors who are not motivated by political interests except that of the greatest interest and welfare of our people."

Soliman said the new movement was yet "another attempt to bring all forces together … and we will continue to bring all forces together until she [Ms Arroyo] is out."

They include members of civil society, people's organizations, academe, church, media, political movements and parties and business, and personalities from the camps of ousted President Estrada and the late Fernando Poe Jr., the movie actor who lost to Ms Arroyo in 2004.

Former President Corazon Aquino, Senators Franklin Drilon and Ramon Magsaysay, Jr., Reprentatives Francis Escudero, Alan Peter Cayetano, Butz Aquino, Ronnie Zamora, Darlene Custodio, Benigno Aquino III, and party-list Rep. Satur Ocampo were among the politicians who attended the meeting at the Club Filipino yesterday. *With a report from Fe B. Zamora*

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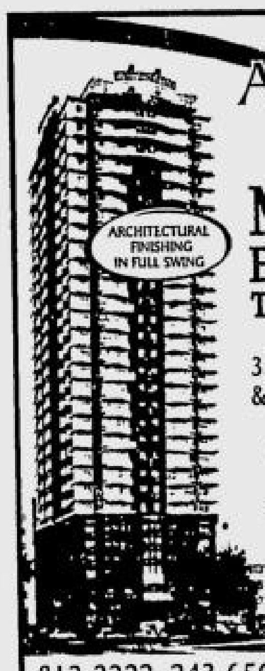
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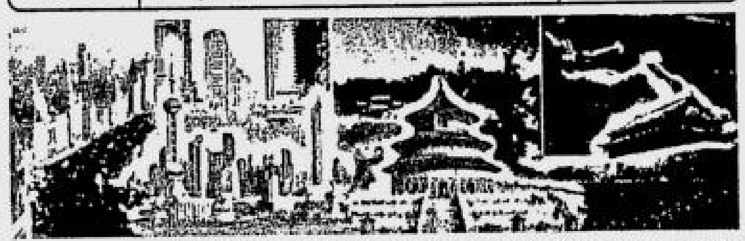

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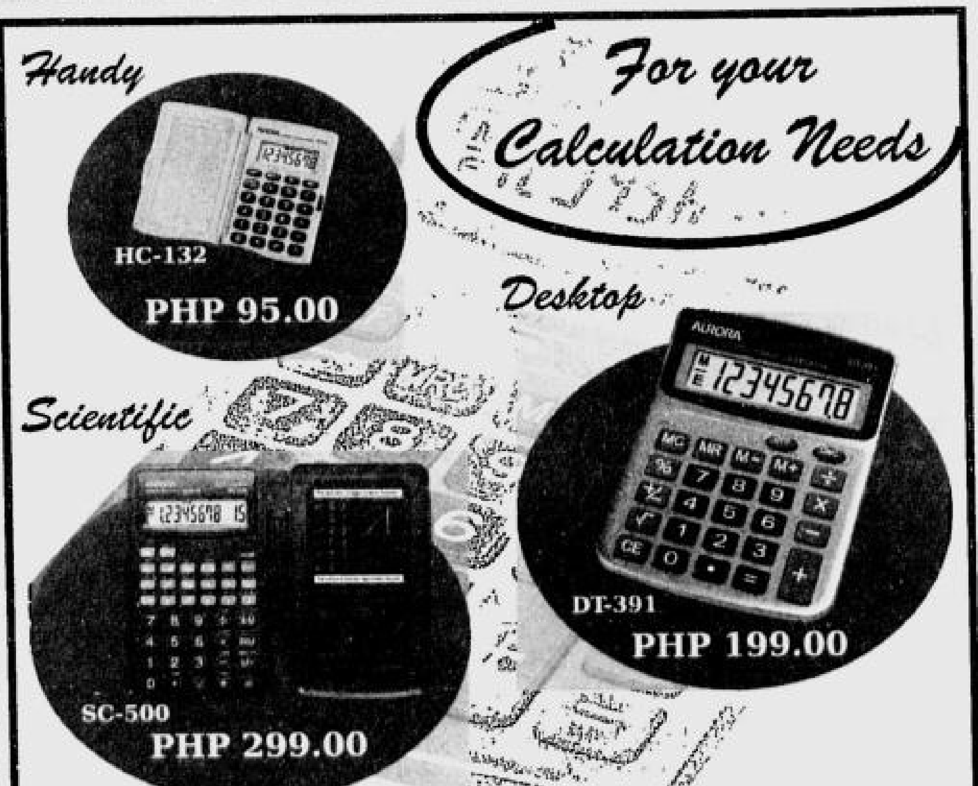

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Bolante made fortune selling memorial plans

From page A1

political scandal that last year nearly cost her her presidency.

He is detained in a US immigration cell after his arrest on his arrival in Los Angeles in July.

The US Embassy in Manila had cancelled his visa and put him on its blacklist barring his entry into the United States. This followed the issuance by the Philippine Senate of a warrant for his arrest for ignoring its repeated summons to appear in a hearing on a P728-million fertilizer fund scam.

Bolante has decided to seek political asylum in the United States rather than face deportation and his accusers at home. He says communist guerrillas are threatening to execute him for allegedly messing up with money intended for farmers.

International law grants a refugee status to persons outside their country with a "well-founded fear of persecution." This must first be established.

"The media have been unfair," says his brother. "He built himself up for years, only to be ruined within a short period."

Vicente Bolante Jr. says his brother has been hurt by claims he pocketed hefty commissions from the fertilizer fund.

He also said that his brother's nickname has become a butt of jokes.

Bolante was supposed to have been named "Joselin," but the civil registry clerk erred and wrote a girl's name. His father thought Jocelyn was a unique name for the boy and decided to go for it. "My father has a sense of humor," says his junior.

P266.5M in assets

Three years before he joined the Arroyo administration in February, 2001, Bolante bought a house on a 2,000 sq. m. lot in Ayala-Alabang Village in Muntinlupa City for P30 million.

The house was demolished to give way to a new, eight-bedroom structure for Bolante, his wife, Ma. Carol, and their four children.

In the garage was a fleet of luxury cars, including a Mercedes C240, Mercedes 300TE, Mercedes 260E, BMW 725 TDS, GMC Suburban, Lexus E300, Honda Accord and a Nissan Cefiro, all acquired while Bolante was president of Prudential Life Plan Inc. (PLPI).

When Bolante joined the Department of Agriculture as undersecretary for administration and finance on a P40,000 monthly salary, he already had P266.5 million in real estate, stocks, bonds, cars, jewelry, paintings, antiques, books, furniture and cash in the bank.

He also had memberships in the exclusive Tagaytay Highland Golf and Country Club, Ayala-Alabang Golf and Country Club, Puenta Fuego Golf and Beach Resort. Bolante's biggest shareholdings—a total of P94.4M—would be with PLPI, the pre-need company he cofounded with former Ambassador to the Holy See Francisco Alba in 1978.

Architect of fund scam

A report by two Senate committees that conducted investigative hearings says Bolante was the "architect" and "brains" in a government scheme that allegedly diverted P728 million in fertilizer funds to Ms Arroyo's campaign in May 2004.

The report says that Bolante "cunningly, wittingly listed 105 congressmen, 53 governors and 23 mayors to justify the immediate release of the fund."

The committees recommended the filing of criminal and administrative charges against Bolante, former Agriculture Secretary Luis Lorenzo, Undersecretary Ibarra Poliquit, Undersecretary Belinda Gonzales, Assistant Secretary Jose Felix Montes and all DA regional directors.

Bolante snubbed the Senate hearings, ignoring four subpoenas and one invitation.

He then reportedly went to the United States, Australia, Norway, Finland and other destinations to attend meetings as the treasurer of Rotary International, the fourth highest official in the prestigious organization.

Supporters clam up

Bolante's family and friends, especially the Rotarians, however, were mum about his whereabouts, despite a warrant of arrest issued by the Senate in February.

Soon after Bolante's arrest, Ambassador Alba, chair of the Prudentialife group of companies, received a call from Bolante's wife Ma. Carol, a source close to the family told the INQUIRER.

According to the source, Mrs. Bolante asked Alba to "put in a good word" about her husband in case agents from the US state department would inquire about her husband's professional history. Alba agreed. "He is a good friend," he says.

Bolante and Alba had met at Loyola Plans Inc. where both worked in the 1970s, selling plots of land in park cemeteries and funeral services. Bolante was then simultaneously working on a commerce degree at the University of San Agustin in Iloilo City, where he was also student council president.

Upon graduation in 1972, Bolante went full time with Loyola as manager in Iloilo province, and later on in Western Visayas. "He topped the sales consistently," his brother says.

Arroyos

Expanding the Loyola network in Davao in 1974, the Capizeño, then only 23 years old, was invited to join the Rotary Club, where he met Ms Arroyo and her husband, Jose Miguel.

But Bolante felt stifled at Loyola, which belonged to the Puyat family. "He rose in the ranks but being an outsider, my brother knew he had no chance of going up," Vicente Junior said. In 1978, Alba, Bolante and a Jack Barrios bolted the Loyola to form the Prudential Life Plan Inc., (PLPI), a pre-need company that competed with Loyola.

As marketing chief, Bolante organized an aggressive staff. One of his recruits was Manuel Blanco, a sales topnotcher with Loyola. "He gave me an offer I could not refuse: he gave me a car and a chance to be trained on his marketing style," Blanco recalls.

Nothing impossible

Bolante's marketing approach was simple, Blanco said. "Nothing is impossible if you have a plan, which means Plan A, Plan B, Plan C and so forth. If Plan A fails, you go to the next, and the next. Or you may combine several plans. One thing I've learned—it worked," he said.

By 1983, PLPI had its own building in Legaspi Village, Makati. In 1984, PLPI expanded from memorial plans to pension plans with the founding of Prudentialife Pension Plan Inc. (PPPI). In 1987, Prudentialife Educational Plan Inc. (PEPI) was also established.

Bolante himself became president of PLPI and its affiliate, AFRONSA Phil., the country's biggest distributor of American caskets. He was also director of more than a dozen Prudential sister companies and resorts.

Outside Prudential Life, Bolante was preoccupied with Rotary International. A copy of his bio-data says Bolante had a "100 percent" attendance in club meetings since 1974. He served in various Rotary posts here and abroad and received numerous awards.

Bolante campaigned for Ms Arroyo when she ran for senator in 1992, and helped her, through the Rotary and PLPI networks, in her reelection in 1995 and her vice-presidential bid in 1998.

He was rewarded with a post in the agriculture department. It has been downhill for him since.

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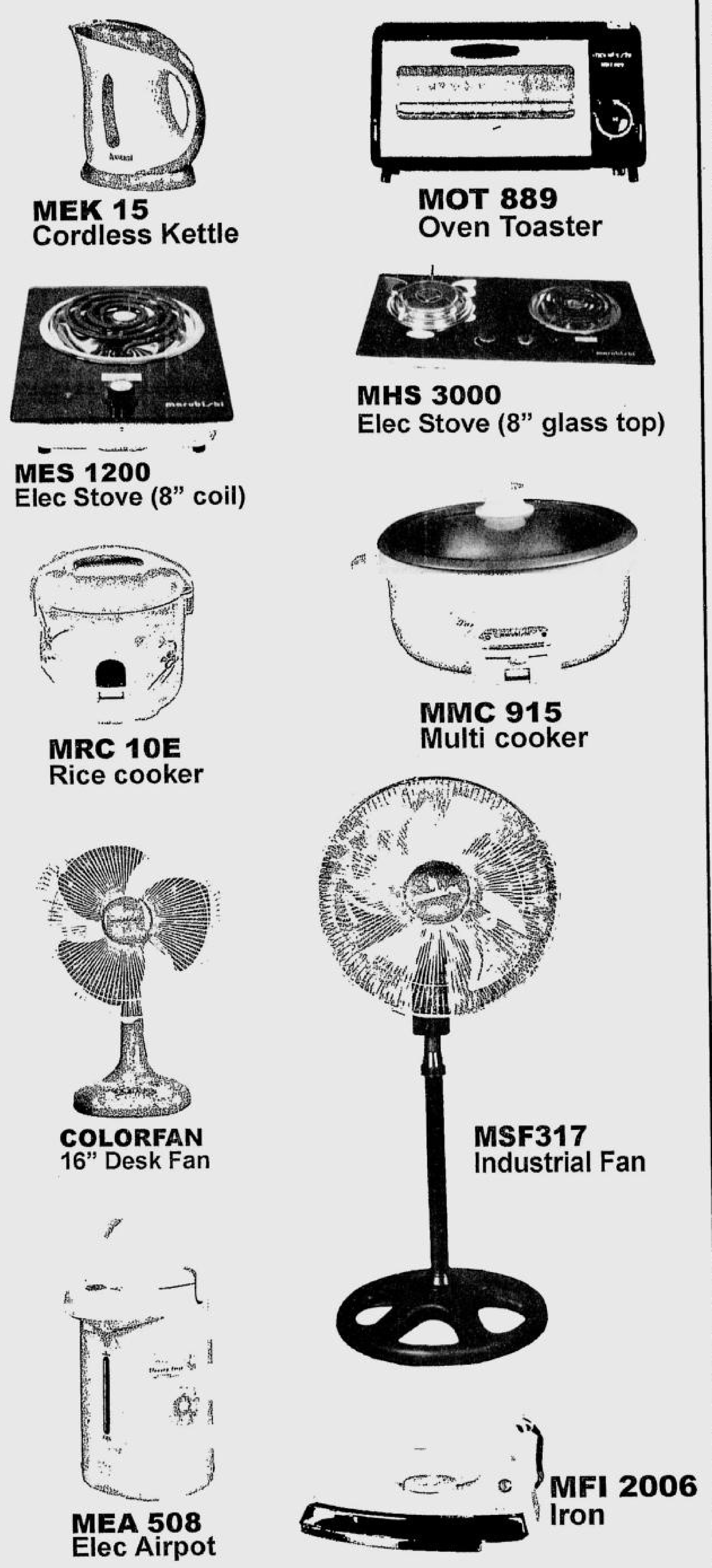

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Palace to protest US cancellation of Bolante visa

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

BRUSSELS (VIA PLDT)—MALACAÑANG IS planning to file a diplomatic protest on Washington's cancellation of former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante's US visa, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said yesterday.

Romulo said this was the advice of Senate Foreign Relations Committee chair Miriam Defensor-Santiago who claimed that Bolante's case was a clear breach of protocol.

Santiago said the matter should have been handled by the foreign ministers of the two countries.

She said then Senate President Franklin Drilon, who issued the arrest warrant against Bolante after he was cited in contempt for failure to attend hearings on the P728-million fertilizer fund mess, should have asked Romulo to pass on the measure to the US ambassador in Manila for implementation.

Anomalous

"That is the procedure, the protocol," said Santiago, who was part of the presidential delegation in her Europe-American tour. "I was amazed as an international law expert at the news item. It's anomalous."

At the lobby of the Philippine delegation's residence at the Brussels Hilton Hotel, Santiago told Romulo: "We should file a note with the US Ambassador in Manila explaining Philippine laws and request the US to act accordingly."

Reading "between the lines," Santiago said that Bolante's visa should be reactivated and he should be allowed to leave and enter the United States freely.

Romulo welcomed Santiago's suggestion and told reporters he would act on it. "I'm happy that the chairman of the foreign relations whom I respect and who knows international law has spoken."

Senate panel has no authority

Santiago maintained that the Senate has no authority on Bolante's case "because I don't recall there being a resolution, the issue was only discussed at the committee level."

She said Drilon cannot go directly to the US Embassy because this was "in excess of his jurisdiction." Santiago said the Philippines could not yet file a diplomatic protest because "it's just a small matter."

Joc-joc takes on Condi . . .

From page A1

said the petition, a copy of which was obtained by the INQUIRER.

The petition, dated Aug. 9, 2006, was initially brought before a district court in northern Illinois but it was later refiled in Wisconsin, where Bolante is currently detained. The Wisconsin district court will hear the petition on Sept. 20.

The petition said the US Embassy in Manila did not notify Bolante that it was going to scrap his visa and it failed to give him a chance to give his side.

Bolante was arrested on July 7 on his arrival in Los Angeles. He was told that the move was prompted by an arrest warrant issued by the Philippine Senate citing him in contempt for failure to appear in hearings on a P728-million fertilizer scam *(See story on this page)*.

The money was allegedly used in President Macapagal-Arroyo's election in 2004.

Denial of safe haven

Lawyer H. Harry Roque Jr. said Bolante's decision to include Rice as a respondent indicated that there was "a more significant" reason behind the cancellation of his visa.

"To me, this is his tacit understanding that his case is not just an ordinary revocation of a B1/B2 visa but involves a more significant reason. The document indicates that Bolante himself is perhaps aware that Presidential Directive No. 212—which denies safe haven in the US to kleptocrats—is already being applied against him," Roque said.

Roque was to attend the hearing scheduled yesterday in Chicago on Bolante's petition for asylum and bail. He said members of the Filipino-American community were to picket the immigration court to protest Bolante's asylum and bail application.

"An 'arrest warrant' issued by a legislative branch of government does not establish a ground for inadmissibility ... and therefore does not provide the material basis for a visa revocation," Bolante's petition said.

It said the Senate's arrest warrant was "merely a contempt citation calling for the petitioner's immediate arrest and detention for failure to appear at a Senate committee hearing to facilitate legislation."

The petition pointed out that Bolante had never stayed beyond the authorized period of admission to the United States "so that he cannot be found inadmissible."

Visa revocation arbitrary

"Moreover, according to (the US Foreign Affairs Manual), the authority to revoke a visa should not be used arbitrarily. A consular officer may not revoke a visa based on a suspected ineligibility," the petition said.

"Rather, a consular revocation must be based on an actual finding that the alien is ineligible for the visa," it said.

The petition added that the arrest warrant against Bolante was "not enforceable for lack of confirmation by a judge and would not render the Petitioner inadmissible under the INA."

"Thus, a determination that the petitioner was inadmissible is arbitrary and bases the visa revocation on a suspected ineligibility," it said.

The petition also said that Bolante could be detained as an intending immigrant because the "US Consulate in Manila had already determined that he qualifies for the B-1/2 non-immigrant visitor visa under which he sought admission to the United States when he arrived on July 7, 2006."

"The immigration officer has not made a contrary determination at the time the petitioner's application for admission," it added.

European Commission expresses concern over political killings in RP

From page A1

commission was expected to allocate 25 million euros ($32 million) to help support the peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front during the 2006-07 period.

The commission has already earmarked a total of 90 million euros for past talks, which have been off-and-on since 2001, Reuters said.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, who is part of the Philippine delegation, said that the President's decision to open the Philippines to international scrutiny was a "bona fide" gesture to show the world that she has nothing to hide.

"We're really a different case than Myanmar which has refused to allow international monitoring teams a peek into its human rights situation," Defensor said.

Outrage at killings

Earlier, Ms Arroyo had a working lunch with Belgium House Speaker Herman de Croo, Senate President Anne-Marie Lizin and other Belgian lawmakers at the Palais de la Nation where she expressed her "outrage" on the killings and her administration's strategy in dealing with them.

"I respect the outrage about the killings and I, too, am outraged. I sought out these meetings to give you a firsthand account of what we are doing to stop this injustice," said the President.

Aside from the police-led Task Force Usig, Ms Arroyo said she tapped retired Supreme Court Justice Jose Melo who, she said, had "impeccable credentials and given full powers of my office" to conduct an impartial investigation and prosecution of the perpetrators.

She said she had invited the European Union and the UN Commission on Human Rights to send monitoring teams into the country. She said she had also sought out domestic and international nongovernment organizations to help resolve these killings.

Directive to commission

"I told Justice Melo to pursue every path regardless of where it may lead. Any member of the police or military that engages in extrajudicial killings must face the harshest punishment. No one has the right to take the law into their hands and settle a political score through taking a life," Ms Arroyo said.

"This is the response of our government out of impatience at the pace of resolving the killings and our sympathy for the pain that have been suffered by the victims and their families."

Ms Arroyo also moved to deflect much of the criticism on her administration's human rights record by noting that "this mode of political retribution has a sad history in our nation that I want to stop once and for all" in reference to the dark years of the Marcos era.

The two leaders also agreed to start talks next month on how to further open up political, economic and social relations between the two countries.

Improving ties

Barroso noted that Ms Arroyo was the first Philippine president to make an official visit to the European Commission which "shows clearly the resolve to improve their relations and confirms that both sides are committed to further expanding and strengthening our relations."

Also yesterday in Manila, Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales said Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, who retired on Monday as commander of the 7th Infantry Division, should be given the benefit of the doubt.

Leftist groups have blamed Palparan for extrajudicial executions, particularly in regions where he had been assigned. They say political killings total around 700 although the INQUIRER lists 247.

"It should be proven first that he was behind the killings," Rosales said before Palparan's critics oppose his planned appointment to a security post. *With reports from Leila B. Salaverria, Reuters*

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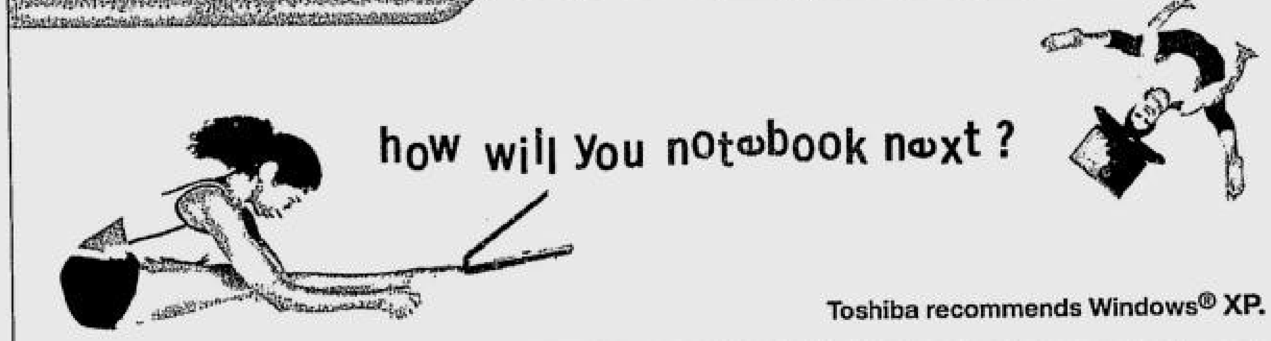
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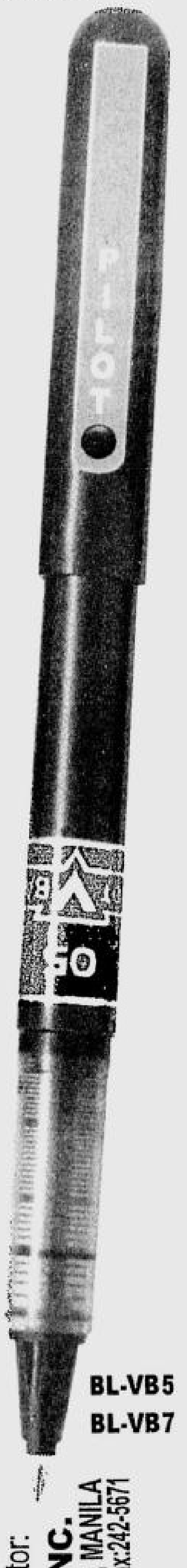
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Senate-PCGG showdown

From page A1

be set. That was the main purpose of EO 1, and also to save time," she said.

Subject to contempt

Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the investigating committee on government corporations, said he would direct the Senate sergeant at arms to present Sabio at today's hearing.

"That's his privilege, but he could be subject to contempt if he refuses because he's a public official. Another contempt [charge] will be lodged against him," Gordon said when told of Sabio's remarks.

"I think it's healthier that he's around because he's already been arrested, that he hear the charges and the issues that are involved in the PCGG with respect to this matter. It's also important that the public finally get a glimpse of how the PCGG operates. We have to look at the larger picture here," the senator added.

The inquiry is an offshoot of a resolution filed by Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago seeking an investigation of the alleged anomalous losses of Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp. (POTC), Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat) and Philippine Holdings Corp. (PHC) due to purported improprieties in their operations by their respective boards of directors.

The government owns 35 percent of POTC, a firm formerly controlled by Marcos cronies, and is entitled to 35 percent of Philcomsat, a wholly owned subsidiary. Hence, it has a 28-percent interest in PHC, a publicly listed corporation.

Habeas corpus petition

The PCGG, through lawyer Jay Miguel, yesterday filed before the Supreme Court a petition for habeas corpus to compel the Senate to present Sabio before the tribunal and to justify his arrest and detention.

Miguel, the director of the PCGG legal department, also asked the tribunal to nullify all Senate orders and issuances involving Sabio's detention and to permanently restrain the chamber from ordering his arrest.

"Sabio has no personal knowledge of the alleged improprieties in the operations of the said corporations by their boards of directors. There is therefore no reason to summon him to testify on these matters. Transactions refer to matters which allegedly transpired prior to his appointment to the PCGG," Miguel said.

SEN. Richard Gordon visits detained PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio at the Senate clinic Wednesday. ROGER MARGALLO

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez dismissed the possibility of the Sabio detention sparking a crisis, saying the issue involved only the Senate and the PCGG.

Gonzalez said that the issue rested on the Supreme Court, and that he did not see Malacañang being dragged into the controversy.

Besides, he said, PCGG officials invoked EO 1, and not EO 464, which bans top Cabinet and military officials from appearing at congressional inquiries without the President's say-so.

"I don't think [the issue] involves the executive because what is invoked is not executive privilege, but an executive order that was issued specifically for PCGG," he said.

'We're not worried'

In Brussels, where he is accompanying President Macapagal-Arroyo on a five-nation swing, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said: "We're not worried; we're confident the Office of the Solicitor General can handle this. This issue has never cropped in our discussions with the President and other Cabinet officials on this trip."

He said Sabio's arrest "strengthens the executive department's resolve to defend itself against any attempt to use legislative probes for smear campaigns of political bullying."

In Manila, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Malacañang was in support of "the position [that Sabio] took and continues to take."

He reminded reporters that Sabio was an expert lawyer, having been a former president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

"We are confident Sabio can handle himself and the other [PCGG] members in this particular case," Ermita said, adding that Sabio was feeling fine and able to "face up" to the situation.

Ermita said he had informed Ms Arroyo of Sabio's detention.

He said that should Cabinet members and other executive officials be faced with a similar situation, they would insist on Memo Circular No. 108 setting conditions for their appearance at congressional inquiries.

Asked whether Malacañang had instructed its officials to resist if faced with arrest, Ermita said: "There will always be ways—either agreeing peacefully or thwarting legally the action of the arresting officer from the Senate or the House."

He said lawmakers could threaten to arrest executive officials for snubbing their hearings, "but we will go by our own policy on attendance."

140/100 BP

Sabio, whose blood pressure rose from 130/90 late Tuesday night to 140/100 yesterday morning after he received several calls and granted radio interviews, is physically fit to attend today's hearing, according to Dr. Mariano Blancia. chief of the Senate medical/dental services.

Gordon, however, said the committee would not release Sabio until PCGG Commissioners Ricardo Abcede, Nicasio Conti, Tereso Javier and Narciso Nario were brought to the Senate to testify.

"We will not release him until we get the rest," Gordon said. "He's the one in charge. And command responsibility dictates that he tell his people to explain."

Abcede, in particular, should be "man enough" to appear at the inquiry to refute allegations that he had received a Toyota Camry, a luxury sedan, from the PHC, Gordon said.

But Abcede said he was not hiding.

"I am fighting for a cause here. They just cannot find me," he said on the phone.

Senate security men are also tracking down PHC executives Benito Araneta, chair; Philip Brodett, director/VP; Manuel Andal, treasurer; and Julio Jalandoni and Luis Lokin, directors.

"There are no leads on them," Gordon said.

The Senate committees cited the PCGG and PHC officials for "direct contempt" and issued warrants for their arrest late Monday afternoon, after they skipped the hearings thrice in a row.

Next battleground

Sabio, who looked fresh from what he called "sound sleep," said he'd rather argue his case before the Supreme Court.

"The next battleground will be the Supreme Court. It's the appropriate battleground, not the Senate," he said. "We will argue there with, I hope, Senators Joker Arroyo, Gordon, [Juan Ponce] Enrile, and [Franklin] Drilon. We shall be happy to argue with them."

"I will personally argue my case," he added, even as he conceded that his arrest resulted from a disagreement between the PCGG and the Senate over "provisions of the law."

But Gordon scoffed at Sabio's challenge, saying: "I don't think we should argue. No senator should be allowed to argue."

Sabio insisted that the arrest order aimed at coercing him to testify was "null and void from the beginning" because EO 1 remained in effect.

In a phone interview later in the day, Sabio said that even if the Senate released him, he would not set foot again on its premises.

"I will not be coming back," he declared. He also said he hoped to be released by the weekend, but added that he was willing to stay "until kingdom come." *With reports from Alcuin Papa, Armand N. Nocum and Christine O. Avendaño in Manila; Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. in Brussels*

Enrile threatens to sue Abcede

SEN. JUAN PONCE ENRILE IS CONSIDERING suing Commissioner Ricardo Abcede of the Presidential Commission on Good Government for saying he was a crony of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

"I will give this commissioner the chance in the proper forum [to prove his claim]," Enrile, who served as Marcos' defense and justice minister, said yesterday.

Asked what forum that would be, he said: "The only proper forum here, once reputation and honor are available for scrutiny, is the courtroom. I'm going to study this case, and I will give this guy a chance to show that he has learned something about the law and trial work."

Abcede had said on national television that Enrile was a Marcos crony, and that he should inhibit himself from the Senate inquiry into the alleged losses of government-sequestered corporations because he had an interest in one of the corporations. *TJ Burgonio*

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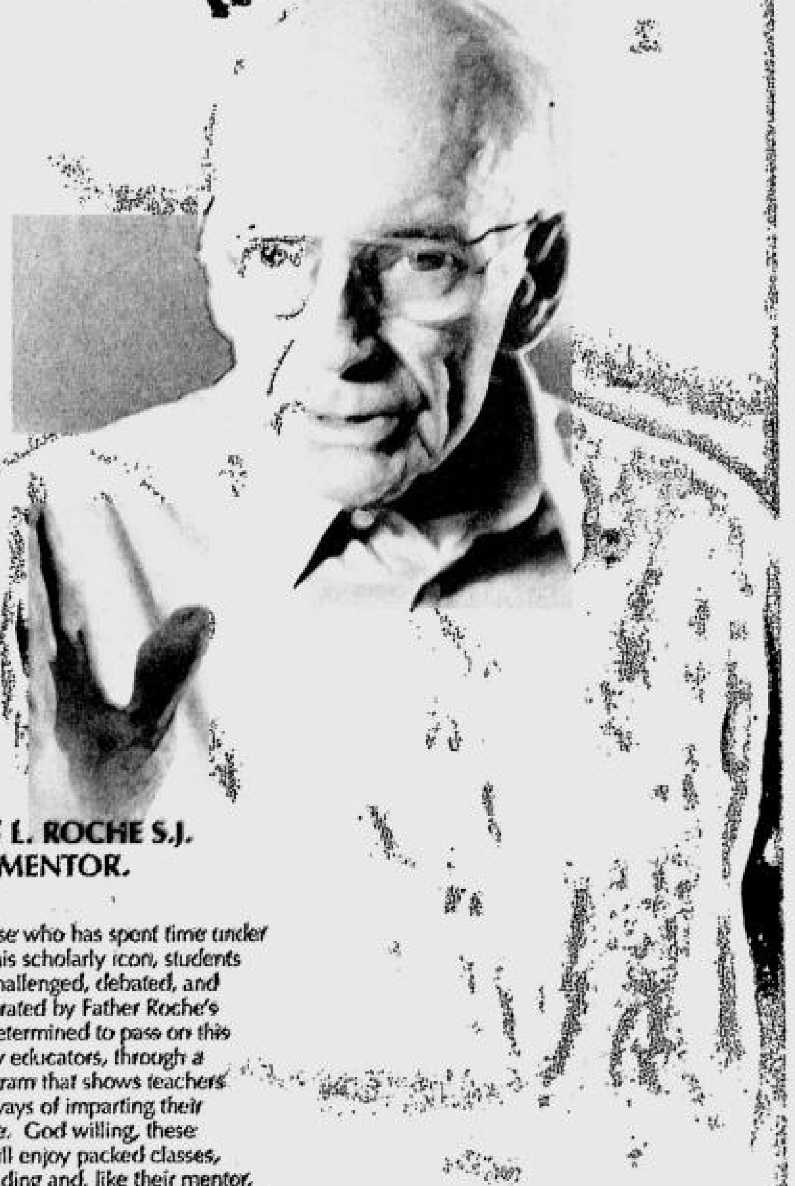

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Loren told: Abandon protest if running in '07

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE LAWYER OF VICE PRESIDENT NOLI DE Castro yesterday asked former Sen. Loren Legarda to make up her mind and decide whether to run in next year's senatorial elections or pursue her election protest against his client.

"If she intends to run in the 2007 national elections, Ms Legarda should better withdraw her election protest now and help the government save P350 million representing the cost of the ballot boxes which contain the ballots, returns and other election documents involved in the protest," said Romulo Macalintal.

Macalintal said that around 140,000 ballot boxes involved in Legarda's protest could not be used in the coming 2007 elections. This, he said, would force the Commission on Elections to purchase new election boxes in the amount of P350 million, at P2,500 per ballot box. There are 140,000 ballot boxes under consideration in the Legarda protest.

Great service

Macalintal said that pursuant to existing laws and jurisprudence, Legarda's election protest will be deemed abandoned and automatically dismissed once she filed her certificate of candidacy for the 2007 elections.

This, he said, was similar to what happened to the electoral protest of then presidential candidate Sen. Miriam Santiago, against then President Fidel Ramos. When Sen. Santiago ran for the Senate in 1995, her electoral protest filed in 1992 was deemed mooted.

"If this will just be the scenario, she would do a great service to the people if she will withdraw her protest as early as now to help save time, effort and money especially for the Comelec," Macalintal said.

"It is very clear that Ms Legarda knows her protest will not prosper and cannot be resolved by 2007 and that either she abandons it or seriously pursue it," he stressed.

Macalintal also answered Legarda's allegation that the Comelec copies of the tally were different from the Congress' copies of returns.

He said that nothing has yet been established as to the alleged spuriousness of the returns and that these were just Legarda's claims to the media.

"In the end, it would be the Presidential Electoral Tribunal's judgment that shall control and not Ms Legarda's fantastic and self-serving claims. And we strongly believe truth is on our side," Macalintal said.

Macalintal also said that if results of the re-canvass of election returns of Lanao del Sur were turned in, these alleged discrepancies were so "minuscule" to materially affect De Castro's victory.

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CEAP-NCR Dir. Msgr. Gerry Santos with Vibal staff

Sr. Remy Asuncion of the St. Paul system and other CEAP delegates at the Vibal booth.

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OPINION

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Power to inquire

EDITORIAL

THE SENATE CLEARLY AND FORCEFULLY ASSERTED on Tuesday its power to inquire into matters of public interest by ordering the arrest and detention of Chair Camilo Sabio of the Presidential Commission on Good Government. Sabio and the four PCGG commissioners, together with several top officials of a sequestered corporation, had repeatedly ignored summonses for them to appear before a Senate committee looking into alleged losses suffered by the corporation. The PCGG officials claimed they could not be compelled to testify because they were protected by an executive order signed by then President Corazon Aquino.

The EO, issued in February 1986, says in part: "No member or staff of the commission shall be required to testify or produce evidence in any judicial, legislative or administrative proceeding concerning matters within its official cognizance." This extraordinary privilege, which virtually made the PCGG accountable to no one except the President, was intended to give the commission a free hand in going after the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their cronies. But Sen. Joker Arroyo, who was Aquino's executive secretary, said this particular provision of the EO was "effectively repealed" by the 1987 Constitution, specifically by the provisions giving Congress the authority to conduct investigations in aid of legislation.

Sabio and his commissioners adamantly maintain that the Aquino EO remains in effect and that it allows them to keep the Senate from looking into the PCGG's affairs. Earlier, they refused to reveal the details of negotiations between the PCGG and businessman Eduardo Cojuangco regarding the shares of stock in San Miguel Corp. purchased with funds taken from the coconut levy during the Marcos era. And they stuck to this position even when the senators punished them for their defiance by threatening not to appropriate anything for the PCGG's operations.

With the PCGG and the Arroyo administration challenging the authority of the Senate to make the PCGG officials testify, the Supreme Court will have to resolve the issue. But right off it seems inconceivable that the Court would uphold an EO over the fundamental law. The 1987 Constitution clearly confers on Congress the power to conduct inquiries in aid of legislation. And even when that power was not expressly provided in the Charter, such as in the 1935 Constitution, the Court declared that Congress' "power of inquiry—with process to enforce it—is an essential and appropriate auxiliary to the legislative function."

A court victory does not automatically guarantee that the Senate will finally get to listen to the PCGG officials. The Arroyo administration has not been known to bow gracefully in legal defeat or even to follow the law as the courts define it. An earlier ruling by the Supreme Court struck down as unconstitutional President Macapagal-Arroyo's EO 464 which barred officials in the executive branch from testifying in aid of legislation unless cleared by the President. But to this day, Cabinet officials and their underlings continue to defy the ruling by refusing to attend congressional hearings, especially those called by the Senate. Their excuse is that the ruling is still being appealed.

Knowing that something is illegal apparently is not enough to keep the administration from doing it. Which may not be surprising anymore given that the administration has been accused of misusing public funds and cheating to win the elections. But in the face of so much defiance of the law and disrespect for other institutions, the other organs of government will just have to stand up and continue asserting their rights and insisting that the law be followed.

That is what the Senate has done in asserting its right to know what is going on inside the PCGG or the firms it has taken over in the government's behalf. In fact, it should have asserted this power a long time ago. Already dismissed as a useless appendage fit to be consigned to history and attacked as a source of instability, the Senate looked pathetic when its summonses were being ignored by every official who could pronounce "EO 464"—from a suspected scammer like Jocelyn Bolante to an alleged butcher of leftist activists like Jovito Palparan. Now at least the Senate has served notice that it does have some teeth and that it is ready to bite if necessary.

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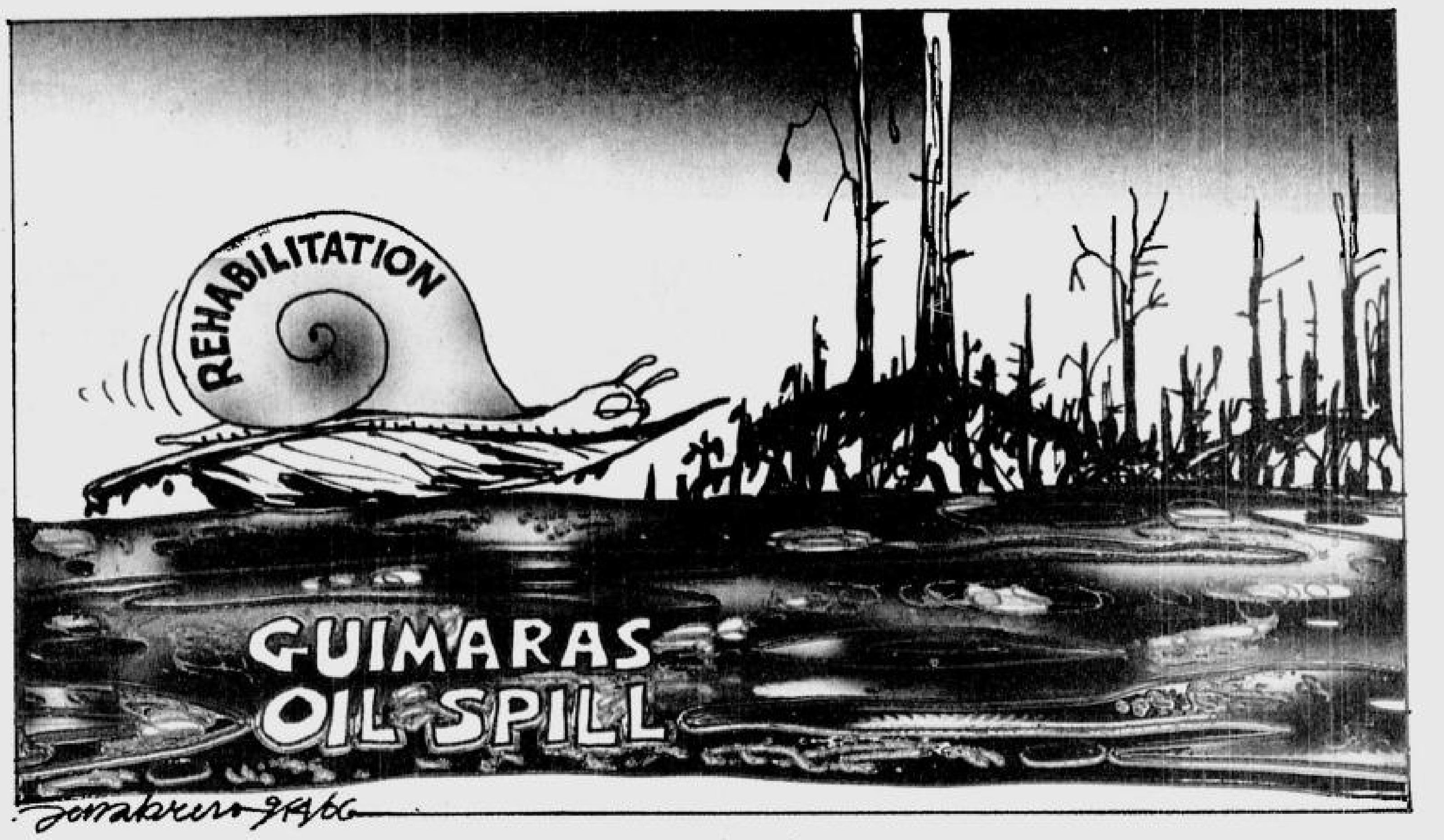


Those sealed graves

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

ARE WE SLOWLY BECOMING A NATION OF Khmer Rouge-style killing fields, with mass unmarked graves similar to those that studded Augusto Pinochet's Chile?

In Helsinki, President Macapagal-Arroyo invited both the United Nations and European civil society groups to scrutinize her administration's human rights record. Her administration has been dogged by accusations of tolerating, even covertly supporting, the murders and abductions of radical leftist leaders, among others.

Among her critics are Filipino communists and their above-ground comrades. So, did government time the exhumation of 67 out of a possible "300 people killed by communists in the 1980s purge of suspected spies" from a Leyte jungle mass grave?

That's possible—and likely. BBC, CNN and other agencies broadcast stark images: a priest sprinkling holy water on skulls moldering in the dappled sunlight of an Inopacan jungle, and anguished relatives identifying half-decayed clothes.

The Leyte dispatches subliminally underscored the principle that accusers must come with clean hands. They also recalled that unlocated graves still held victims from various pogroms: "Kadena de Amor" in the Quezon-Bicol zone (1982), "Kampanyang Ahos" in Mindanao (1985-86), "Operation Missing Link" in Southern Tagalog (1988) "Olympia" in Metro Manila (1998-99).

How many were salvaged in the paranoia over military infiltrators? In a 2003 INQUIRER interview, then CPP chair Rodolfo Salas admitted to 1,800 executions. UP professor Walden Bello claims 700 were executed in purges that netted five agents. No one knows for sure.

A decimated CPP ultimately halted the bloodbaths. But its post-purges policy targeted communists who quit the movement to terrify others. Romulo Kintanar, Felimon "Popoy" Lagman and Arturo Tabara were among those cut down. "It's sometimes necessary to kill the chicken to scare the monkey," was Jose Maria Sison's explanation for Kintanar's murder, Pierre Rousset writes in "The Post-1992 CPP Assassination Policy."

"A great number of extrajudicial killings sometimes do not come to light in the newspapers," the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines noted in its 2006 pastoral statement. "But they are known to us in our dioceses." These include those "perpetrated by insurgents for various reasons, such as *agaw armas* operations, failure to pay a revolutionary tax or 'blood debt to the people.'"

Summary killings by vigilante groups in cities go unchecked, asserts the latest US State Department human rights report. "Through December, vigilantes killed some 147 persons in Davao City, Mindanao, compared with 104 killings in 2004, and 104 in Cebu City (168 as of today) .... Local officials seemed to condone and even encourage them."

Law enforcers rarely go beyond pro-forma attempts at tracking down the triggermen, let alone the masterminds, the report stressed. This was true whether the victims were Bayan Muna members, judges, journalists or even ex-convicts in Cebu.

"The courts and police failed to address adequately complaints of victims' families concerning past disappearances (and murders) in which security forces were suspected," the report adds. "Pervasive weakness in the rule of law, official impunity, and the wide disparity between rich and poor contributed to cynicism about official justice."

Like Khmer Rouge executioners, the *esquadrones de la muerte* and masterminds haven't been held to account. Some pogrom killers are now button-down executives in Makati offices, survivors say. The CPP, however, claims it stopped the killings and adopted reforms.

"The defense of human rights and human dignity… has to be impartial, irrespective of religious belief or ideology," the Catholic bishops wrote. So, the first essential step is to sift the facts from the self-serving excuses to anchor reforms.

This tough task confronts the Melo Commission and whatever European initiative may follow. Government has a checkered record of fudging the truth. So do the local political warlords and the communists. Captured documents in Quezon province meanwhile indicate yet another pogrom—"Oplan Bushfire"—filling more graves.

"Name all the victims and pinpoint their graves, so they can be given decent burials" is the poignant demand of pogrom survivors, relatives and human rights advocates, grouped under Peace Advocates for Truth, Justice and Healing. "These individuals had names, faces and lives." Four were, in fact, Santo Tomas University students; others from UP.

"Locating the graves and informing families are the two most immediate tasks that the CPP-NPA should commit to" Path officials Robert Francis Garcia, Lan Mercado and Daisy Valerio write. "A full disclosure of what happened is called for, not just pieces of information that the (CPP) feels politically expedient to release at the moment."

The opening of three mass graves in Poland's Katyn Forests documented the murder of 21,857 reserve officers and civilians in the spring of 1940. The exhumation of mass graves in Choeung Ek revealed the murder of some 1.7 million Cambodians. Our killing fields still remain sealed.

That grisly history shows "truth will rise on the third day," Boris Pasternak wrote. "And like rafts floating down the river/So shall they drift … coming out of the darkness/To judgement before Me."

(E-mail: juan_mercado@pacific.net.ph)

Thank God for Alan Peter Cayetano

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I AM PROTESTING DISCRIMINATION. MY good friend Billy Esposo has had a libel case filed against him by Mike Arroyo. My good friend Ellen Tordesillas has had a libel case filed against her by Mike Arroyo. My friend Lito Banayo has had a libel case filed against him by Mike Arroyo. My colleagues Jake Macasaet, Mon Tulfo and the editorial staff of my favorite newspaper, the INQUIRER, have had a libel case filed against them by Mike Arroyo.

I have not had a libel case filed against me by Mike Arroyo. I feel left out. I protest!

What can I say? The people the First Gentleman—never has that title taken on richer irony, both the "first" and the "gentleman"—has decided to sue are excellent company. This is truly one case that proves the local saying that when you point a finger at someone, four fingers point right back at you. You can't get along with one journalist, fine, that journalist is probably disagreeable even if he has a good name. You can't get along with two journalists, fine, those journalists are probably disagreeable even if you start raising doubts about yourself. You can't get along with three journalists, still fine, those journalists are probably disagreeable even if you're really pushing your luck.

You can't get along with these many journalists, you are disagreeable.

The monumentally ironic thing here is that the First Gentleman is suing all these people for libel. What does libel really mean but that someone is lying through his teeth willfully and maliciously for no other reason than that it pleases him to do so? Does that practice ring a bell? Or does it ring a phone with the ring-tone "Hello Garci"? One is tempted to say that the First Gentleman should look closer to home (literally), but that presumes he can recognize the truth if it fell on his head from a tree.

Still, the one case the First Gentleman has filed that's bound to boomerang on him ferociously is not one against a journalist, but against a congressman. He is Alan Peter Cayetano, who has brought the First Gentleman's ire upon his head by claiming that the First Gentleman has carted off a fortune to a Munich bank. Fuming, the First Gentleman flew off to Munich in the company of lawyers to disprove Cayetano's allegation and came back with documents that showed the account Cayetano said belonged to him does not exist. He demanded an apology from Cayetano, and getting none has since tried to get the full force of the law—such as passes for it in this country—to bear on the young man.

Well, Providence does move in mysterious ways. Thank God Arroyo has the kind of advisers he has. His frenetic attempt at retribution, which includes ousting Cayetano from Congress, is clearly a blunder. If he had ignored Cayetano's allegation to begin with, it would probably have gone away quietly. Scandals in this country have a very short shelf life, aided in no small way by the sheer plenitude of them—you've got to top one scandal with a bigger scandal to get noticed, a veritable feat in light of the mind-boggling scandals scandalizing us today. But Arroyo had to get back, and so gave (robust) life to the very thing he wanted to kill.

At the very least, he has drawn attention to the fact that he refuses to sign a waiver, as Cayetano demands, allowing a search of the German banks for any accounts by him and kin. Panfilo Lacson who also calls himself a gentleman, along with officer, did that when he was accused by Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and company of hiding loot in the United States. He waived any restrictions on disclosure by the US banks of any accounts by him. They didn't find any.

Arroyo says he won't sign a waiver because there is nothing to waive. But if so, why did he fly off to Germany in the company of lawyers to try to prove his innocence? If he was as pure as driven snow, why didn't he just fly off to Vegas in the company of Manny Pacquiao and Lito Atienza and dared Cayetano to do his worst? A waiver easily puts all doubts to rest, proving not just that he is innocent but that Cayetano is a liar.

At the very most the First Gentleman has drawn attention to the vehemence with which he has tried to get back at Cayetano. Which can only suggest to a public (grown cynical from being regaled with fabulously wealthy and fabulously fictitious people like Jose Pidal) that Cayetano has struck gold in more ways than one. Truth has been known to hurt, and get people mad. Very, very mad.

Indeed, all the First Gentleman has done is draw attention to the concept of "gentleman." Gentlemen pride themselves on playing fair. All the First Gentleman has done by trying to disbar Cayetano from everything he holds dear is to show the First Gentleman to be a bully first—and last. All he has done is to show the double standards at work today—how impossible it is to oust a non-President who called up Garci and switched ballot boxes, and how easy it is to oust a congressman who called wrongdoing into question and tried to switch decency and honesty for lying and cheating.

In the end, all the First Gentleman has done is to turn Cayetano into a gentleman of the first order. I did say last year I hoped the young men and women, in particular those who rose brilliantly to impeach the usurper in Malacañang despite the hurdles put up by their old and jaded colleagues—though many of them were still young and sprightly—would never lose their principles along the way. The way many of their predecessors did: look at the activists who once fought Marcos, now in GMA's ranks. I am glad Cayetano has lived up to his promise even if most of his comrades have not. The good thing with people who seem alone in a lonely fight is that they are not really so. The people are with them.

Hindi ka nag-iisa Alan.

For the first time RP heads AIPO and Asean

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

OUR COUNTRY'S STRATEGIC ROLE IN THE Asian region was highlighted in recent weeks, and one can say it's a "back-to-back honor" from Seoul to Cebu. Last week, Speaker Jose de Venecia presided as founding president and chair of the standing committee of the 4th General Assembly of the International Conference of the Asian Political Parties (ICAPP) held in Seoul, South Korea. The gathering was attended by over 90 political parties from 36 Asian countries. Its joint sponsors, the ruling Uri Party of SK and the opposition Grand National Party, pulled out all the stops to guarantee a successful conference. The Asian political parties sought to establish bridges and come up with formulas for mediating state-to-state disputes. But they also socialized in splendid receptions hosted by South Korea's first female prime minister, the speaker of the National Assembly and the youthful mayor of Seoul.

The participating political parties included seven from the Philippines: Lakas, led by JDV, Deputy Speaker for Mindanao Gerry Salapuddin and Mandaluyong Rep. Ben-Hur Abalos, who cochaired a session on regional security; the Nacionalista Party led by Senate President Manuel Villar; the PDP-Laban, represented by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel; the LDP, represented by Sen. Edgardo Angara; the Nationalist People's Coalition, represented by Representatives Antonio Cerilles, Crispin Remulla and Jack Duavit; the Liberal Party (Drilon Wing), represented by Representatives Nereus Acosta and Henedina Abad; and the Philippine Democratic Socialist Party, represented by Beth Angsioco and Michael Eric Castillo.

* * *

Bustling Seoul gathered most of the political parties in Asia. In Cebu City, over the past four days starting last Monday, Sept. 11, the celebrated event was the 27th General Assembly of the Asean Inter-Parliamentary Organization (AIPO), with its theme of "A caring and sharing community." Some 300 members from eight Asean parliaments, led by their speakers, as well as observer delegations from Brunei and Burma and representatives from Asean's "dialogue partners"—Australia, Canada, China, the European Parliament, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Russia and the United States—gathered in the Queen City of the South. Among the issues tackled were regional security, especially with the fifth anniversary of 9/11 being marked; the prospects of establishing an Asean parliament; and support for an inter-faith dialogue among Asean nations (an RP initiative introduced during the 60th anniversary of the United Nations last year). In her video message from Helsinki, President Macapagal-Arroyo challenged the delegates to help draft the Asean Charter that would enshrine the region's principles and values and make it a "rules-based regional organization with a judicial personality."

* * *

Representing RP were 25 House members. Many of them played a very active role in the deliberations (AIPO is to the House of Representatives as the much-older Inter-Parliamentary Union is to the Senate). Not by coincidence, the head of the RP delegation and its organizing committee was Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco, who chairs the House foreign relations committee. Also playing host was Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul del Mar, and other Cebu representatives: Nerissa Soon-Ruiz, Clavel Martinez and Simeon Kintanar. Vice President Noli de Castro addressed the opening session and though the Senate is not directly involved, Senate President Villar and his wife, Rep. Cynthia Villar, gamely hosted a lunch for all the delegates at the Casino Español.

* * *

The president of this year's AIPO is Speaker De Venecia. But what makes it a first-ever double honor is the fact that RP is also the chair of Asean this year. Thus, the Leaders' Summit will be held also in Cebu City this December, with GMA presiding. Thus, for the first time in years, one country holds both the leadership of AIPO (the legislative organization) and Asean's executive body. So excited are the Cebuanos about the twin honors that in front of the Provincial Capitol is a billboard featuring a daily countdown to the Leaders' Summit. For that big event, Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia is constructing a new Cebu International Convention Center in a four-hectare area in Mandaue. It is targeted for completion by Nov. 15.

* * *

The House of Representatives and Cebu City spared no effort to make the AIPO conference a huge success. The city's best singers and performers and its loveliest beauty queens and models put up scintillating after-dinner shows. After two days of work, the delegates were given a break and yesterday many headed for Cebu's and Bohol's famed beach resorts. Others shopped in the city's many malls.

But it's also interesting that this AIPO conference seems determined to end its "country-club" reputation. Future historians will mark 2006 as the breakthrough year for both Asean and the AIPO—when our strategic region of 550 million people and almost $900 billion in GDP began its "epoch-making transformation." Last June, the first formal consultation between them started when Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar of Malaysia, then the chair of the Asean Standing Committee, invited JDV, as AIPO president, to Kuala Lumpur for an extensive briefing on AIPO's programs and initiatives. Far-reaching agreements were reached. It was resolved that henceforth, the AIPO chief and the Asean Standing Committee chair, whoever they will be under the rotational system, would meet regularly. Asean leaders will also receive the AIPO president at their annual summit, and, in turn, the AIPO will invite the summit chair to address its yearly assembly. President Arroyo began that practice last Monday.

Surging like 'The Oceanides'

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

HELSINKI—AFTER DAYS OF NORDIC FOOD, bottomless coffee, workshops, talk shops, civil society networking and so-called "open space" discussions (throw in a few films), the 450 participants of the Asia-Europe People's Forum 6 (AEPF 6) held in Helsinki called it a day.

There was no evidence of rice-and-spice-deprivation withdrawal among the Asians as they were very vocal, as victims and potential victims of neo-liberalism should be. Asians and Europeans of the G&D (grim and determined) grassroots variety have, once again, found their collective voice. On the fourth day, they let it all hang out at a city square through songs, dance, mime and a "people's soup kitchen," courtesy of the Finns.

Here in the land of a thousand lakes, the land of the revered composer Sibelius, (for "cellphonephiles," the land of Nokia), Asian and European voices swirled and rose, like the ocean's roiling surge in Sibelius' symphonic poem "The Oceanides." (Finland is just a wee bit larger in area than the Philippines but has a population of only five million. Compare that to our 80 million plus, or just Metro Manila's 10 million.)

As AEPF ended, the object of its trajectory, the Asia Europe Meeting (Asem) was about to begin, with government leaders in attendance, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, among them. These Asian and European leaders forge political and economic links that could spell the race to the top for some or the race to the bottom of the ocean (the Pacific, particularly) for many. Together, the Asem member-states have influence over half the world's GDP.

AEPF, the vibrant people's forum that it was, ended on a high note, clamoring to push the people's alternative agenda to the attention of Asian and European heads at Asem.

AEPF 6 holds its big assembly parallel to Asem that meets every two years alternately in Asia and Europe. Asem 2008 will be held in China and already, AEPF is wondering whether it could also hold its own there. At the plenary, the distinguished Susan George, fellow of the Netherlands-based Transnational Institute, described China with foreboding as the worst example of communism and capitalism.

Well, Chinese "NGOs" (read: government-supported) at AEPF got it on the chin. And why not, they came with propaganda installations that showed Tibet as a happy place, (no)thanks to China. But that is another story.

George warned that unbridled competition between Asia and Europe is destroying the European social model. "European leaders who tell us that the European Union needs to accept open markets, labor flexibility and deregulation are pretending we can do the impossible—compete with China and other low-wage but high-skill, high-tech countries."

Asia-Europe relations, she stressed, must be based on cooperation rather than competition if a race to the bottom on wages and social welfare standards is to be avoided. George was also concerned that the European Commission is using trade negotiations to undermine the development of public services and greater equality within Asia.

Charles Santiago, director of Malaysia-based Monitoring Sustainability of Globalization and member of the AEPF organizing committee, agreed. "With the WTO discussions stuck somewhere between the intensive care unit and the crematorium, there is fear and concern from the Asian side that the EU will aggressively pursue its trade and investment objectives through bilateral agreements," he said.

AEPF 6 hoped to provide ways for Europeans and Asians to cooperate rather than accept competition as a way of life.

Neo-liberalism, the evil that AEPF has bashed to a pulp, remains a global threat. I asked delegate Dr. Alfredo Robles of De la Salle University for a layman's definition and he called it "a night watchman's concept of the state, it means privatization, deregulation, liberalization, with minimal state intervention in the economy."

But AEPF, he said, could provide strategies for exchange and an articulation of alternative views. It can also influence official processes, say, in Asem. Well, the Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF) has a voice within Asem while AEPF, the people's voice, has to cry out loud in order to be heard up there. AEPF seeks to be recognized as an independent forum that has a legitimate role in the Asem process.

"Asem has a continuing democratic deficit," AEPF's closing statement said. "Asem has concentrated on promoting cooperation between governments and representatives of business interests, and its agenda has been geared towards trade, investment and political issues. The economic pillar has promoted pro-market policies as opposed to alternative people-centered policies."

In other words, AEPF said, there has been no attention to learning from those who have felt the effects of the imposed development patterns—the farmers and workers in both continents, for example.

The groups within AEPF must go beyond constantly talking to one another and project the AEPF's socially oriented agenda more forcefully through concrete moves. They should make use of the different forms of media. But first, they must speak simply and carry a big picture, give their concerns a human face. What does it look like down there?

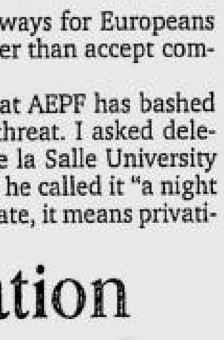
For example, Finland's reindeer herders are a threatened lot because of too much logging in prime forests—an issue brought up at AEPF through film. Tapio, the God of the forest in Finnish mythology, must be angry. Also, the issue of Asian labor and migration in Europe was among the hotly discussed topics at AEPF. And so, before flying home, I made sure I picked up some related stories—the Filipino *au pair* problem in Europe, for example—for a special feature.

I also picked up some smoked reindeer cold cuts from the Finnish deli.

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

Restoration



THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

IT COULD HAVE COME MUCH SOONER. THEORETICALLY, had Imelda Marcos and Eduardo Cojuangco joined forces in 1992, her 10.3 percent of the vote and his 18.2 percent would have swept Fidel V. Ramos' 23.6 percent and Miriam Defensor-Santiago's 19.7 percent aside. Cojuangco's and Marcos' loss, however, proved an enduring gain: there remained a hard core—roughly one-fourth of the population—that could be mobilized by the remaining political infrastructure of the KBL. The same election, too, proved that the political legacy of the anti-Marcos struggle was a fatal division: Ramos, Ramon Mitra, Jovito Salonga and Salvador Laurel (with 51.8 percent of the votes cast for president) proved the overwhelming strength of the anti-Marcos veterans. The old rule of thumb was, politics is addition; the post-Edsa strategy would be politics is division.

In 1998, the man to beat was Joseph Estrada. I argued then that the historic challenge was not to view his victory as unstoppable, but to recall that at best he had a strong minority on his side. The lessons of 1992 were ignored, however. There was even greater division of the post-Marcos forces. Put together, Jose de Venecia, Raul Roco, Lito Osmeña, Alfredo Lim, Renato de Villa and Manuel Morato cannibalized each other; Juan Ponce Enrile and Imelda Marcos did far less damage to Estrada than his opponents did to what should have been a formidable constituency. The result? Estrada's 39.6 percent of the vote—even less than Carlos Garcia's minority presidency of 41.3 percent in 1957; but a landslide compared to the tiny percentages (15.9 percent for De Venecia, 13.6 percent for Roco, less for the others) of his rivals.

But the "anyone but Estrada" vote was formidable—55.26 percent (the votes cast for Estrada's rivals put together, except those for Santiago and Santiago Dumlao, which I consider an anti-everyone protest vote)—but politically irrelevant. And so the myth of the Estrada landslide was born, ignoring the reality that a majority of Filipinos opposed his election—and would eventually welcome his fall; and ignoring, too, the lessons of two presidential elections: that while a slim majority remained hostile to the restoration of the Marcos machinery, that majority was helpless. What is the point of a larger majority, if it's shattered into squabbling minorities?

Of course, arguing that greater political unity would have resulted either in a Marcos restoration in '92 (presuming the Edsa veterans had stayed divided, and Marcos and Cojuangco had unexpectedly patched up their differences) or an Estrada defeat in '98 (presuming the different leaders had united on a single candidate) is speculative. But I think it indicates two things.

The first, is that the veterans of the Marcos administration, including the Marcoses themselves, have managed to preserve their political machinery better than anyone else. And that they continue to have the capability to mobilize a significant minority of the voters—say, 25 percent—who look back fondly to the New Society, or are personally loyal to the Apo and his kin, and by extension reject Edsa and People Power. I am not alone in thinking this. This undercurrent of rejection is politically powerful, and gets even stronger as post-Marcos administrations mismanage the country and prove themselves no better than the Marcos-era leadership.

The second is that the post-Marcos bunch of leaders remain more interested in undercutting each other (thus, making the constituencies of the various leaders politically inconsequential) than in getting their act together and standing up for what the majority continues to believe was a pretty good thing: that is, Edsa and People Power. Now they're dying off one by one, and there's no one young to replace them, or follow them. Collectively, theirs is a story of 20 years of defeat—the only ones who tasted victory were members of the Ramos minority who decided to abandon all pretensions to Edsa. They are the new KBL, using the same tricks, and with the same objectives, but having perfected the technology for massaging the vote.

The Marcoses themselves have, in spades, something that many of their opponents lack: charm, vigor, celebrity status and even intelligence. They have today's general air of disillusionment working on their side. The Marcoses themselves can piously point out they have no *haciendas*; Cory Aquino's family clung to theirs.

Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is certainly no Chavit Singson: and even her worst critics admit Imee Marcos is sharp as a tack; everybody likes Irene; Imelda herself is unsinkable and remains one of the most famous Filipinos alive, regardless of the cause of her notoriety (as any actor proves, any publicity is good publicity). And as for robbing the public treasury and human rights, well, they can say they're in good post-Edsa company. The thing is, for Filipinos of a certain age, you will hear, "at least the Marcoses got something done" (and still do: Bongbong's windmills are a genuine achievement). And for the young: what martial law?

But we would be mistaken to assume that the Marcoses have won the battle for history, though they may be poised, as many political observers tell me, to increase their political gains. Imelda Marcos, I keep hearing, is the woman to beat for the mayoralty of Manila: but is that because she is genuinely loved, or because the post-Edsa mayors of Manila have failed to deliver? If there is a tried and tested rule in Philippine politics, it is the contrarian, oppositionist instincts of Manilans—so what would an Imeldific victory say?

To the world and many Filipinos, a repudiation of Edsa, definitely. Though not really. A repudiation of the leadership, and deservedly so. It's been in the works since 1992.

Losing two dads

YOUNG BLOOD

Jamie Santos

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

BARELY A MONTH BEFORE MY 21ST BIRTHDAY AND MY college graduation, my grandfather who helped raise me suffered a serious stroke. Three weeks later, he died.

Twenty-two days before my 22nd birthday, my father passed away as well.

Today, I write about these experiences for the first time in a last-ditch effort to get my life back. I want to be released from my state of displacement and worry, and start life anew.

In 2005, I ended a fruitful life at the university and my self-imposed job as a student journalist. I laid the groundwork for a student-run publication that was completely independent from school policies, and received two journalism excellence awards from .the Raul Locsin Foundation for my efforts.

Two of my dreams—my Lolo's dreams for me—had materialized. And it was supposed to be the time of my life.

Needless to say, it wasn't. He didn't get to hear my speech at the awarding ceremonies. He didn't get to hear me thank him in front of all the teachers who had helped me. He did not hear me recall our daily morning conversations about how to make the world—the Philippines—better. Or recount how he, the strong patriarch of our family, who was to me the epitome of masculinity, would tell me he was shedding tears for our country. My Lolo taught me to be nationalistic.

He also taught me that everything you do in life, be it a comment you make, a smile you give, a favor you extend, must be done with good intentions.

My Lolo was my guide, leading me along the right path and pointing the way to a meaningful life ahead of me.

My family smiled behind their tears and pain, as I gave my speech during the awarding ceremonies. My father was there, dressed in black like the rest of us, with his big round belly, proof of his uncontrollable appetite perhaps.

My Papa lived life according to his own rules. He was free, and like Peter Pan, he never grew up. But he was always wary of me. After all, I was the one who was always critical and vocal about his mistakes. He knew that I would never just accept things as they were, but he loved me just the same.

Shortly after Lolo's death, Papa developed a tumor in his brain which would later impede his speech and swallowing. Seeing my own flesh and blood degenerate and deflate like a popped balloon in a matter of weeks was the worst torture I could imagine. I almost renounced my religion. I could not bear it, and he could not bear to let us see him that way either.

He thought we were revolted by his gagging and involuntary spitting. But I, for one, was not. I was scared, and so pained at seeing him that way that I would have given up anything to switch places with him, even for just a day.

I would cook and bake all the Italian treats I knew, and he just could not have any of them, although he tried to chew and swallow. Still he would tell me, "*Ang sarap.*"

I drove him to his doctor the day before he died. That was the last time I saw him smile.

He was crying the night before he died. He was in so much pain. He had a hard time breathing. He had a cold.

I still think of Papa every time I see injustice around me. Once, we saw an old couple trying to catch a taxi at 11 in the evening. No one would stop for them, and the few that did refused to take them to where they were going. We stayed there with them, until Papa was able to convince a cab driver to take the couple home.

When I was much younger, I picked up the tendency to label everything uncouth or disgusting as something done by squatters. When Papa heard me say it, I got a tongue-lashing. The lesson he drilled into my head was that people in the slums are some of the kindest I would ever meet. He taught me to have a preferential option for the poor, even before I heard the phrase being spoken.

A month after Papa's death, I went back to work at the country's biggest TV network. I looked for other jobs to keep me busy. I used my credit card to pay the down payment for a car. I talked to people on the phone until I fell asleep. I did everything I could to avoid silence and the possibility of thinking about my recent losses.

Before I graduated, I was already working for the network. And that was when work, any kind of work, became a convenient excuse for not seeing my Lolo suffer and die.

After Lolo's death, my self-confidence went on a tailspin. My interest in writing and reading, even if Gabriel Garcia Marquez had published new books, and my desire to stand up for myself waned constantly.

I tried hard to lead a normal life. I tried to be productive and told myself the world is a wonderful place to be in, but nothing worked. I felt depressed and unhappy, no matter what I did. The desire to become a journalist just felt like a wonderful dream I once had and trying to make the Philippines better for at least 50 people (my conservative goal) seemed impossible for the first time in my life.

Here I am surrounded by people who care, people who encourage me, and yet I feel alone. I know I have to deal with my problem by myself.

The first step, I think, is to get it out of my system even if that means talking about my Papa or Lolo every time to everyone.

I forced them out of my existence after their funerals and perhaps this feeling of being haunted is their way of getting back into my life.

It's true what they say, no matter how strained your relationship is with your parents, losing them will prove to be one of the hardest things to deal with in life.

My 23rd birthday is just a few months away. God, I pray to You, please make it tragedy-free. My dear friends will definitely be around to celebrate, this time in a hotel with food that I will cook. That gives me one more reason to hide behind my ever-present toothpaste ad grin. Please remind me to talk about my Papa and Lolo when I respond to the birthday toast.

These two men taught me all they could, but they left out how to survive without them. And that's why I feel as if the world is swallowing me whole.

Jamie Santos, 22, graduated from Ateneo de Manila with an AB Communication degree. She is a writer and freelance producer.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

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Thanks to honest public servants

THOUGH A BIT DELAYED, I would still like to commend the inspectors manning the X-ray machine right before the place where one goes down to the boarding gates at the Naia I terminal.

Last July 2, 2006, at that inspection station, I had to remove my belt, shoes and all items in my pockets and place them in a tray. That included my digital camera. The line was a bit long and people were hurrying. I was with my 5-year-old son on our way to Hong Kong.

In Hong Kong, I found out that my camera was missing. I tried to remember where it might have been misplaced or stolen. I remember taking a picture of my 5-year-old son in front of the big Lego statue inside the duty-free shop at the terminal. Then I remembered that we had to pass inspection. But I was pretty sure that the camera had gone out of the X-ray machine and I must have picked it up. It was in the tray. I didn't want to blame anybody, but I suspected that the inspectors at that station might have taken the camera while it was in the X-ray tunnel.

It was a bad way to start the trip, but I just tried to forget it. Our first stop, after we had settled in our hotel, was to buy a new camera. How could we do Disneyland Hong Kong without a camera.

The following weekend, on July 8, 2006, my daughter Catherine was bound for Hong Kong together with friends. When she passed the same inspection station, just for the heck of it, she asked the inspectors if they had a digital camera in their lost and found section. She was asked to describe it and, lo and behold, they indeed had it in their "stock room," together with other lost and found items. One of the inspectors went to get it and in no time at all, without any fuss, returned the camera to my daughter.

My daughter promptly called me up on her cell phone to give me the good news and I was very pleasantly shocked, to say the least. I never expected to get back the camera again, especially because I lost it in our country. This has restored my faith in our countrymen.

Yes, there are still honest people around, even among those serving in government. All is not lost. And that's why I would like to commend this group of inspectors. It's too bad my daughter didn't get their names, but I am truly thankful to and quite proud of them.

—ANTONIO G. DE LEON,
21 Aerides St., Pacific Village,
Alabang, Muntinlupa City

Electricity spot market does not benefit consumers

WE WELCOME WITH A SIGH OF relief the P0.79/kWh reduction in our generation cost—from P5.21/kWh in July 2006 to P4.42/kWh in August 2006. According to President Macapagal-Arroyo, this was the offshoot of the start of the commercial operation of the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM) in Luzon.

However, Rep. Joey Salceda doused cold water on this piece of seemingly good news when he said that the reduction in the generation cost will mean up to P1 billion in losses for the National Power Corp.—an amount which will have to be shouldered by the government.

This gives us the understanding that every time the market price goes lower than P4.93/kWh (the last ERC-approved rate for Napocor), the government will lose billions of pesos. This raises the question: Is it really the government that will lose or the consumers? Experience has shown us that in the power industry, the consumers are always the losers. Take for example the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) on undelivered and unconsumed electricity that consumers pay and the Value Added Tax imposed on all electricity consumers to make government revenue collection efforts easier.

Therefore, whatever is the loss to Napocor will simply be passed on to the consumers who remain captive customers even with the operation of the WESM. Worse, the WESM's revenues will be coming from the participating generation plants and distributors which also pass the costs to their captive customers.

So, are the consumers genuinely benefiting from the WESM operations under the present circumstances? No, for as long as the Napocor-IPP contracts and the Meralco-IPP contracts are not rescinded. No, for as long as the captive customers or market is not released by Meralco. For how can there be competition when only one buyer controls 75 percent of the Luzon market? We say, free the market and let the consumers choose their own suppliers, which in turn can choose to buy from the many generating plants of Napocor or that should offer its capacities on a per plant basis.

For as long as our legislators prefer to be blind and deaf, and for as long as this administration refuses to exercise its awesome powers on these twin issues, we are convinced that the WESM operation will never be beneficial to the consumers.

—DR. BONIFACIO C. DAZO,
president, Federation of Las Piñas
Village Association (Folpva),
Myrna Panlilio Street, BF Resort
Village, Talon II, Las Piñas City

AFP no longer the defenders, protectors of the people

PATRICIA EVANGELISTA'S AUG. 20 column ("Rage against the dying of the light") was a straightforward yet profoundly powerful account about the great tragedy that has befallen our country. Our soldiers, who are sworn to defend and protect us, have turned against us in canine devotion to a usurper in Malacañang.

I am so sad that the noble tradition of soldiery has been dishonored, such that whenever I see a man in uniform I feel a kind of revulsion and disgust at the unfairness of it all—they are being used and they may not even know it. Blame the greedy and unprincipled generals whose four years in the Philippine Military Academy have been a waste of time and tax money.

Speaking of tax money, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's RVAT is grinding the poor to their bones while allowing her to lay her dirty hands on people's hard-earned money, which she uses to buy and bribe lapdogs so that they keep her in power.

I too used to wear the uniform. I served at the height of the Huk rebellion in the 1950s-1970s and lived through the risks of soldiering. We were then truly the defenders of the State and protectors of the people. Our generals then were honorable and principled men and they drilled into our heads that we must never dishonor the uniform and that we must serve our people well.

But now, for the first time in our history, we have an Armed Forces serving an impostor in Malacañang and serving her well.

I take this opportunity to salute the exception to this tragic outrage the brave officers and men of the AFP who refuse to be used by the megalomaniac and hypocrite who lies, cheats and steals without shame and with all arrogance. A person who loves only herself.

—NAME WITHHELD ON REQUEST

Marines not demoralized

THIS HAS REFERENCE TO Ramon Tulfo's column titled "Demoralized Marines," wherein he said that eight Marines got killed in Sulu because they have become "very lax" due to "demoralization" caused by the jailing of two senior Marine officers. (PDI, 9/5/06)

May we clarify the prevailing situation in the Philippine Marine Corps relative to the column. It is true that some senior Marine officers are currently facing investigation and military proceedings for their reported involvement in the destabilization efforts early this year. But these officers have already submitted themselves to due process. They are now waiting for the result of the pre-trial investigation conducted by the Jago, AFP.

The rest of the rank and file of the Philippine Marine Corps right now are busy pursuing their missions. In particular, our units in Sulu, under Brig. Gen. Juancho Sabban, a competent and well-respected combat commander, are running after the terrorist Abu Sayyaf. Let me say that our troops in the field are well focused on the threat groups in their respective areas of operation and that the Sulu encounter was an offensive effort initiated by us. In fact, the Marines in Sulu have been conducting offensive operations for more than a month now, which only proves that there is no demoralization in our ranks.

The six killed in action—not eight as Tulfo reported—were part of a group of Marines running after Abu Sayyaf terrorists and their Jemaah Islamiyah patrons. They found themselves in an unfavorable tactical position because of their aggressiveness in pursuing the enemy, without regard for their safety. They fought fiercely and did not abandon fallen comrades until the enemy was forced to withdraw with their casualties. The enemy is again on the run and our troops are pursuing them without let-up. In due time, the long arm of the law will eventually catch up with these terrorists, as in the case of Abu Sabaya and Kumander Robot.

To say that our fallen comrades in Sulu are "demoralized and very lax" is to dishonor those who have fallen in combat. It is the last thing we expect to hear from a respected journalist.

—LT. COL. ARIEL R. CACULITAN,
PN(M), public information officer,
Marine Corps Public
Information Office,
Marine Barracks Manila,
Taguig City

Protect non-smokers in Makati

I AM AN ORDINARY EMPLOYEE working in an office located in the Makati business area. When I walk the streets of Makati, I see smokers everywhere. I also see smokers walking side by side with non-smokers.

How can non-smokers avoid inhaling second-hand smoke? It seems like smokers have taken over the streets as their own by filling the air with cigarette smoke! Second-hand smoke has been proven to be dangerous to everyone's health, but nothing is being done to protect non-smokers from inhaling it.

Do we have laws that protect non-smokers? Yes, we do. But the enforcement of these laws is, sad to say, lacking. Can't we make a decisive action to protect non-smokers from inconsiderate smokers? Where else can we inhale clean air?

If these smokers don't care about their health, then those who care about theirs should unite against this utter disregard for the health of others. I urge the Makati government to enforce with resolve the existing anti-smoking law and ordinances.

—HECTOR FLOR,
hflor2002@yahoo.com

History repeating itself in Bin Laden

THE SITUATION ON TERRORISM reminds me of the Roman Empire during the reign of Augustus Caesar (Octavian).

In 9 A.D., the Roman general Publius Quinctilius Varus was assigned to Germany. One of his trusted calvary commanders was a German ally named Arminius (Hermann) who was trained in Roman warfare. The father-in-law of Arminius warned Varus that his son-in-law was plotting against the Romans, but Varus refused to believe there was such a plot.

Eventually, Arminius and his men, through subterfuge, were able to massacre Varus and three Roman legions under him in the Battle of Teutoberg Forest.

History is repeating itself in Osama bin Laden who was trained by the US military in American warfare while he was still an ally against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. Now the US ally and his men have turned against their mentors, wielding the sword of terrorism against Americans all over the world.

In Varus' time, Rome was the "superpower." Today, it is America. Some people are saying the American Empire is following in the footsteps of the Roman Empire.

—JOHN GUCE,
abh_empire2002@yahoo.com

It's gov't posing a threat to UP

THIS IS IN RESPONSE TO Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez's tirade against the students of the University of the Philippines. (PDI, 8/27/06)

First of all, I would like to point out that the university and we, its students, do not owe the government anything at all. It is the people who pay for our schooling, through taxes. As a matter of fact, it is the government that continuously harasses the students of this proud and prestigious university.

As of now, the students are facing an unjust tuition fee increase. We are as well victims of the State's gradual abandonment of education through budget cuts. The students also face militarization within the campus, as Marine reservists posing as security personnel roam the campus. Let's not forget the abduction of two of our fellow students, Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapa, by suspected military agents. It has been almost three months since their disappearance. The government has done nothing about it. These are the reasons why we stand united and keep on with our struggle.

Ever since the Aquino administration, the biggest threats to the State didn't come from the UP studentry. Coup d'etat, mutiny, destabilization or whatever you call it, these are perpetrated mainly by graduates of the Philippine Military Academy. And yet, the government spends so much for a PMA cadet compared to a UP student.

With due credence to the members of the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity, who initiate the Oblation Run, the annual activity is absolutely more than just running around naked. The Oblation is the proud symbol of the university. It stands naked with arms stretched out as a symbol of its complete and untainted offering of itself to the people. The Oblation Run is the embodiment of our long cherished tradition of service to the people.

May I remind Secretary Gonzalez that UP students have made significant contributions for the betterment of the country. In spite of all the challenges and hardships that we face, we have stood up for our ideals. We are proud to be always at the forefront of service, justice and the fight for freedom for the people. For all that we have done, it is the government that owes the UP students, not the other way around.

—MIKO NACINO,
political affairs officer,
Nagkakaisang Iskolar para sa
Pamantasan at Sambayanan,
UP Diliman, Quezon City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Thursday, September 14, 2006

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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5	Nickelodeon				Legend Of Shaolin Kung Fu	Mon Colle Night	Sentro Headlines	Lefty La Mas Fea		Doble Cara		Philippine Idol	S.O.S		Shorts		Big News	Worst Case Scenario	Philippine Idol (11:45PM)
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Yakitate Japan/ Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Calla Lily	Pangako Sa 'Yo	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Super Inggo	Bituing Walang Ningning	Pinoy Dream Academy	A Love To Kill		Bandila	SOCO	Mirada De Mujer
AXN		CSI: Miami (Season 4)		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	Samsung Sports World	The Amazing Race (Season IX)		The Amazing Race (Season IX)		Fear Factor (Season VI)		The Contender (Season II)		Supernatural (Season I)		Lost (Season II)	
Cartoon Network	My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	I am Weasel	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Max Steel	Robotboy	Mirumo De Pon	Pokemon: Johto Journey	Dice/ Justirisers	Shaman King	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Gundam Seed	Shaman King
Cinema One		Tender Age				Babaeng Hampaslupa				Aishete Imasu				Back To The Secret Garden				Friends & Lovers	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	Global Challenges	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Psychic Detectives	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Bones		Treasure Hunters		E-Ring	
Discovery Channel		Psychic Witness		Kings Of Construction		Raw Nature		Deadliest Catch		Engineering Series		Building The Ultimate	Connect	Mythbusters		Innovation On The Fast Track		Power Zone	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Un-talkative Bunny	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Monster Allergy	Lizzie Mcguire	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN	Asian 9-Ball Tour San Miguel			X Games 11 Classic - Skateboard		Pool/ Snooker Mosconi Cup 2005		Pool/ Snooker Mosconi Cup 2005		UEFA Champions League 2006/07				Sportscenter Asia	Pool/ Snooker World Pool League '03 Poland		Pool/ Snooker World Pool League '03 Poland		Sportscenter Asia
ETC		American Dreams		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Will & Grace 4	Friends 10	Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen (Degeneres) Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Nanny 911		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Cenacle Of Divine Mercy	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	Virtue Storybook	Truth In The Heart	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	The Sacraments Through The Ages	Special Programming		EWTN Live (Encore) With Fr. Mitch Pacwa		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	The Seven Sacraments	Images of Mary	Behold the Man, Spiritually for Men	The Journey Home Encore	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Ang Pagbabago (3:45 PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10 PM)		Majika		I Luv NY (8:50 PM)	Love Of The Condor Heroes	Magpakailanman			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F.B. Eye		McLeod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Family Law		Spooks		Wire In The Blood		Regenesis	
HBO			The Cookout (3:35 PM)			The Fifth Corner			Contact (6:35 PM)					Kicking And Screaming			Groundhog Day		
Hero TV	Angelo Layer	Sunny Pig	Last Exile	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar, A Little Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Reload	Full Metal Panic	Yakitate Japan	Mr. Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Last Exile	Fortune Quest	BBDaman Bakugaiden V	Beyblade G-Revolution	AmDriver	Angelic Layer	Yu-Gi-Oh GX
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ Ams		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics/ Ams	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV		Smackdown				X-Men	The Batman	Experience		Mad TV		That 70s Show	Just For Laughs	Distraction	Banzai	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	The Late Show David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network	Get Color	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	At Home With	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Food 911	Who's Wedding Is It Anyway?		Good Finds	Martha		Your Private Island	Genuine Article	E! True Hollywood Story	
MTV Philippines		Punk'd	Laguna Beach		MTV Hits					Get Spotted		TRL		Punk'd	Laguna Beach	Rox in the City	Sessions Kyla		
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX News	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Presents		MYX Bandarito	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXlog
National Geographic	Monkey Business	National Geographic Specials		Megastructures		Naked Science Colliding Continents		Top 5 - Amazing Space		WOW! Bug Attack Bloodsuckers		About Asia		Inside 911: End Game		Megastructures: Megabridge - Greece		Naked Science Lightning	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Atbp.			Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila?	Teledyaryo W/ Ray Langit & Angelique Lazo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Dating Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		News Beat (Live)		OpenLine Live	Gabay Sa Kalusugan	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Dating Daan		Ang Pagbubunyag		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Auto Motor Sport
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	SpongeBob SquarePants/ Right On Top	My Life As A Teenage Robot	Danny Phantom	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	All That	Romeo	As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Baby Taino				Anak Ng Maton				Magic Combat				Humanap Ka Ng Panget				Mahal Kita Final Answer
Qtv	Always The Two Of Us	Shaman King	Outlaw Star	Galaxy Angel	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Phoenix	Irene		Sorry I Love You		Family Zoo		News On Q	Women's Desk		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Complete Savages	Jake In Progress	The 4400		Medium		Cold Case		Newswatch Now	Just For Laughs	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Police Hour
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Friends Again		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports						WNCAA		World Pool 2006 Masters		NFL Dallas @ Jacksonville						Solar Sports Desk	NBA Access	Beach Volleyball FIVB Women's France	
Sports Plus		Jeld-Wen Tradition Highlights		Raceworld		Bicycle Casino's Legends of Poker				Nopi Tunervision	Golf Today	World's Greatest Auto Show Frankfurt		World Game		Auto Focus		Raceworld	
Star Movies				Welcome To Mooseport			Eulogy (5:45 PM)			Hide And Seek (7:15 PM)				Solo			The Triangle - Ep 02		
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Monk		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	Rockstar Supernova				The Drew Carey Show	Sons & Daughters	Seinfeld	Rockstar Supernova
Studio 23								Blog	Pinoy Dream Academy	Wazzup Wazzup	Two & A Half Men	Joey	Stacked	Grey's Anatomy		News Central	Oprah (10:45PM)		MYXlog

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Nurse exec linked to illegal recruitment

BAGUIO CITY—ONE OF THE NURSING BOARD examiners being investigated for leaking test questions during the nursing licensure examinations in June, is now being implicated in the alleged anomalous recruitment of nurses for a hospital in the United States in 2000.

Virginia Madeja, a member of the Board of Nursing (BON), was allegedly the Filipino agent of the Florida-based Total Care Staff Services LLC (TCSS), which failed to send many of its clients to work in a hospital in that state, according to Hosanna Chavez, a registered nurse who is teaching at a local university.

Chavez said she has come forward to offer information about Madeja now that the National Bureau of Investigation is digging into her career history, as well as the background of fellow examiner Anesia Dionisio.

Chavez said she is offering herself as a state witness after learning that Madeja has been linked to the cheating scandal.

Responding to the INQUIRER's telephone queries, Madeja sent back a text message to say that her lawyer had stopped her from responding to the accusation.

"No comment per advice of lawyer. Please understand," Madeja said.

The Professional Regulation Commission claimed to have traced the leaked questions to Madeja and Dionisio, both members of the BON, who claimed to have lost the original manuscripts of their June examination questions.

Chavez said Madeja could not explain why the firm she represented could not fulfill its contract with her clients.

The TCSS Philippine office apparently closed shop in 2004, Chavez said, abandoning Filipino nurses who used to transact with its employees at a hotel in Manila.

Local labor officials have no record of its existence in government's roster of recruitment agencies.

Chavez said it was a group of Cebu applicants who discovered this anomaly, but TCSS employees explained to them that a Philippine license was not needed because the Florida home office was directly handling most of the transactions.

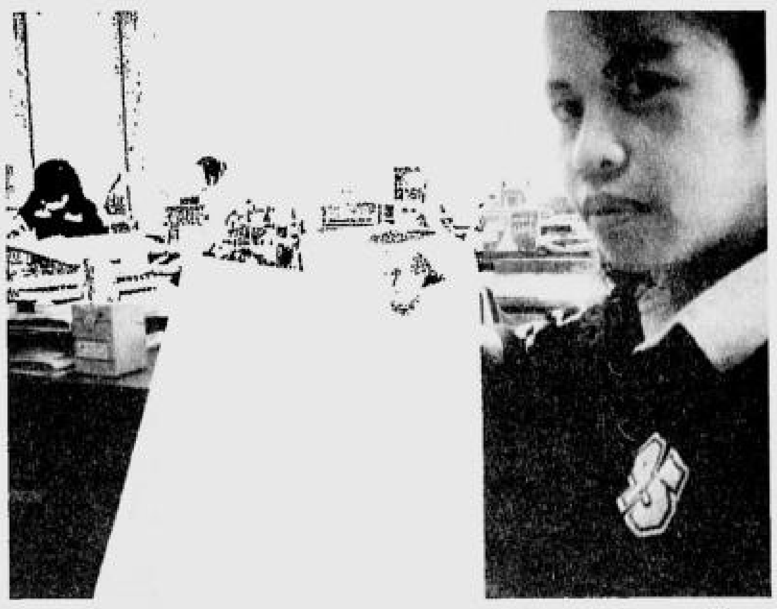
Job spider.com, a web-based labor placement site, lists TCSS among its inventory of medical service firms. It describes this Florida agency as an operation that "petitions nurses from the Philippines for permanent RN (registered nursing) position in a US hospital."

Chavez said 200 Baguio applicants were recruited here during a job fair sponsored by an American businessman, who is supposedly the TCSS president, in 2000.

Among the applicants was Chavez's brother, Perry Sumahid, who has since left for Dubai with the help of another job agency.

The firm always made it a point to travel to the summer capital to update their clients about their job applications, Chavez said.

She cited a friend who managed to be deployed to Florida because of TCSS, which emboldened them to stay with the firm despite the slow pace it took to process their applications.



HOSANNA Chavez, a nursing school professor, has come out to link embattled nursing board examiner Virginia Madeja to the anomalous recruitment of nurses to Florida back in 2000 to 2004. She said the NBI would be interested in her story. VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

Chavez was asked to pay $325 (P16,428.75) for herself and the same amount for each of her dependents—her husband and their two children. She said the job offer allowed her to bring along her family.

She said TCSS asked her to pay an additional $96 (P4,852.80) for all four of them to cover medical fees. She said they had to pay a lawyer who would help them process their migration documents.

The amount TCSS never refunded to Chavez reached P85,000. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Baguio seeks ban on review centers linked to leakage

BAGUIO CITY—A BAGUIO councilor has proposed a measure that will control the operations of local review centers servicing professional licensure applicants.

In making the proposal, Councilor Leandro Yangot, who is also acting vice mayor, wants to bar any review center caught "leaking questions" to any board examination from operating here.

R.A. Gapuz Nursing Review Center was implicated in the distribution of 18-page photocopies of what turned out to be the test questions that appeared on Tests III and V of the June 11 and 12 nursing licensure examinations.

Ricarte Gapuz, owner of the firm, said his firm had been cleared of any anomaly.

But Yangot cited information drawn out from congressional inquiries that suggested that the leaked questions "were bought by review centers from members of the Board of Nursing who prepared the [examination]."

Integrity

"Taking into consideration that the integrity and credibility of Filipino professionals are at stake, the local government of Baguio should not [allow] this recent scam to [go unheeded] considering that the city is the center of education in the North," he said.

Yangot said the city has been hosting various professional review centers that "can always commit irregularities with impunity if not regulated."

The proposed ordinance requires a review center to obtain clearances from the Commission on Higher Education, career industry organizations like the Integrated Bar of the Philippines and the Philippine Nurses Association, as well as city government accreditation.

For the moment, only nursing, criminology and accountancy review centers operate here. Most schools undertake their own review sessions for bar examinations and for the teachers' board exams.

But the proposed ordinance was made in anticipation of review centers that will also serve these professions, Yangot said. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

4,000 lose homes in Tacloban's worst fire

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—AN 84-YEAR-old woman, still grieving over the recent loss of her husband, could just watch as her home went up in smoke during a three-hour fire that razed hundreds of houses in four barangays here.

The fire left 4,000 homeless and destroyed P30 million worth of property Tuesday afternoon.

The 84-year-old widow, Isabel Biong, managed to escape from her house together with her sister-in-law, Victoria, 74.

"This incident is something hard for me to accept. I had just lost my husband (Roberto) last Aug. 29. I was not able to salvage anything from my house, including the P800 I have kept intended for the 40th day death anniversary of my husband," Biong said.

City fire marshall Artemio Tabaranza said the afternoon fire started near a chapel owned by the religious cult Rizalistas in Barangay 36.

Aided by strong winds, the fire spread immediately, as houses in the area were made of light materials, to the adjacent barangays of 37, 66 and 66-A.

"We have yet to determine what is the origin of the fire as our arson investigators are still conducting their investigation to know the cause of the fire," Tabaranza told the INQUIRER.

But some witnesses claimed that an unidentified old woman lit a mound of trash when the fire went out of control and spread to the nearby chapel of the Rizalistas.

The fire, which is considered the biggest to hit the city in recent years, started at 2:05 p.m. and was declared under control at 5:07 p.m.

Of the four barangays hit by the fire, Barangays 36 and 37 were the hardest hit as the fire wiped out all of the houses there. The fire burned down about 240 houses in Barangay 36 and over 300 in Barangay 37.

The three-hour fire razed down about 600 houses, including some business establishments, located in the four barangays.

Liliosa Baltazar, city social worker officer, said that while the fire was a "massive disaster," there were no casualties. However, she added that 30 people suffered injuries.

Baltazar urged the private sector and the government agencies to help them cope with the needs of the victims, about 200 children.

GAPING HOLE
ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS
Children sleep under the burnt ceiling of a house in La Paz, Iloilo City. The fire swept through a village and wounded two residents. Hundreds lost homes, including the family of these two children.

US doubts AFP info that Indon terror suspect slain in Jolo clash

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THE UNITED States has doubted military information that Bali bombing suspect Omar Patek had been killed in Sulu.

Earlier, the military's Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom) said it received reports that Patek was one of those killed during the Aug. 1 clash in Indanan.

Brig. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino, Westmincom deputy chief, said they were trying to verify the report but there has been no confirmation as of yet.

But Matthew Lussenhop, spokesperson of the US Embassy in Manila, said they "have seen such report but have no confirmation that he was injured or killed."

"So in the absence of confirmation, he is still alive," he said.

The United States has been actively involved in the war on terror in Sulu under the so-called Oplan Ultimatum.

The US government is also dangling up to $25 million for the capture or death of Patek, fellow Jemaah Islamiyah operatives Dulmatin and Jandala and ranking Abu Sayyaf leaders including Khadaffy Janjalani.

The JI is said to be the Southeast Asian arm of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, the group behind the 9/11 attacks in the US.

At least a dozen US soldiers are in the island-province, assisting Filipino soldiers in the campaign.

"The US military helps to advise and assist the Armed Forces of the Philippines. We share information and train. But we are not directly involved in the operation in Sulu. We have no combat or frontline presence," Lussenhop said.

As this developed, the military pledged to continue the operation in Sulu during the Muslim month of Ramadan.

This year, Ramadan falls on the third week of September.

Maj. Eugene Batarra, Westmincom spokesperson, said the military could not afford to give the Abu Sayyaf a breather to regroup or regain strength.

"We have to continue," he said.

Maj. Gen. Eugenio Cedo, Westmincom chief, said Muslim soldiers involved in the operation would be allowed a break during the fasting month.

"For other troops, there would be no break for them until the Abu Sayyaf had been destroyed," he said.

Cedo's pronouncement came in the wake of the military's discovery of the presence of a fourth Indonesian terror suspect in Sulu, which allegedly indicated that the JI has been preparing for a major bomb attack in the country. *Julie Alipala and Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

Tax perks seen behind resignation of Clark boss

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—Why did Antonio Ng resign from the state-owned Clark Development Corp. and why has there been another change of leadership, the seventh since 1992, in this other half of the Subic-Clark growth corridor?

Ng, who served as CDC president and chief executive officer for 18 months, said the reason was simple.

"It's time to move on," he said.

"Let's not anymore create controversy," Ng, 57, told the INQUIRER when pressed for answers on Wednesday, a day after he tendered his irrevocable resignation effective Sept. 30.

Ng spent 34 years in the private sector, mainly at Intel and Motorola before he agreed to join the CDC in March last year.

But CDC officials saw the probable reason for Ng's exit.

"Locators perceived him as not aggressive enough in the campaign to regain [their] tax incentives. It meant their survival," Angelo Lopez Sr., CDC community affairs chief, said.

Another CDC official, who asked not to be named, said Ng simply did not want to resort to using "dirty lobby" or dishing out favors, concessions or money to anybody who might help convince Congress decide to give back the tax perks.

The Supreme Court revoked the privilege in July 2005, saying Republic Act No. 7227, or the bases conversion law, did not grant the privileges to those doing business at Clark.

"He was 'Mr. Aboveboard,'" the CDC official said.

Two bills seeking to regain the perks and provide tax amnesty have passed the House of Representatives after a year of hearings. The bills are now in the Senate, sponsored by Sen. Ralph Recto and endorsed as urgent by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Still, Ng's approach dissatisfied the Clark Investors and Locators Association (Cila).

On Aug. 8, before Ms Arroyo visited this economic zone to inaugurate a pilot school and while Ng was in the United States for a month-long leave of absence, Cila issued a resolution declaring its "loss of confidence in the leadership of the CDC for passivity and ineffectiveness in addressing the concerns of the locators of the CSEZ."

On top of the tax incentive issue, it raised concerns on security problems, rental rates and "slow decision process within CDC."

Ng said the tax incentive campaign had "absolutely nothing to do" with his resignation.

"We got this in a completely aboveboard manner," he said of the slow yet fruitful drive.

Cila president Frankie Villanueva on Wednesday declined to say what his group disliked about Ng. He said this was out of courtesy for someone who was leaving.

Villanueva admitted, though, that Cila took its issues to the Metro Clark Advisory Council, a body comprised of local officials in towns and cities around Clark. It is this group that elevated the issues to the President and her advisers.

Lopez said Ng was beset with a case of balancing act between the corporate world and the Clark community that comprised the business sector and political leaders.

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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Editor **Jun Bandayrel**
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Weekends in Lucban

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao
Lucban, Quezon

THE COLORFUL "PAHIYAS" thanksgiving festival in May in honor of San Isidro Labrador is not the only reason to head off for the town of Lucban in the expansive province of Quezon.

In fact, any weekend is a perfect time to take the leisurely three-and-a-half-hour drive to partake of the gastronomic and cultural delights that Lucban offers.

> Take a leisurely three-and-a-half-hour drive and partake of the gastronomic and cultural delights that Lucban offers

The road trip itself is something to look forward to. Choose between traveling through the eastern Laguna towns of Pagsanjan, Cavinti and Luisiana in Laguna under the shadow of majestic Mt. Banahaw or going straight down the South Luzon Expressway, passing through Tiaong, Candelaria, Sariaya and Lucena City in Quezon.

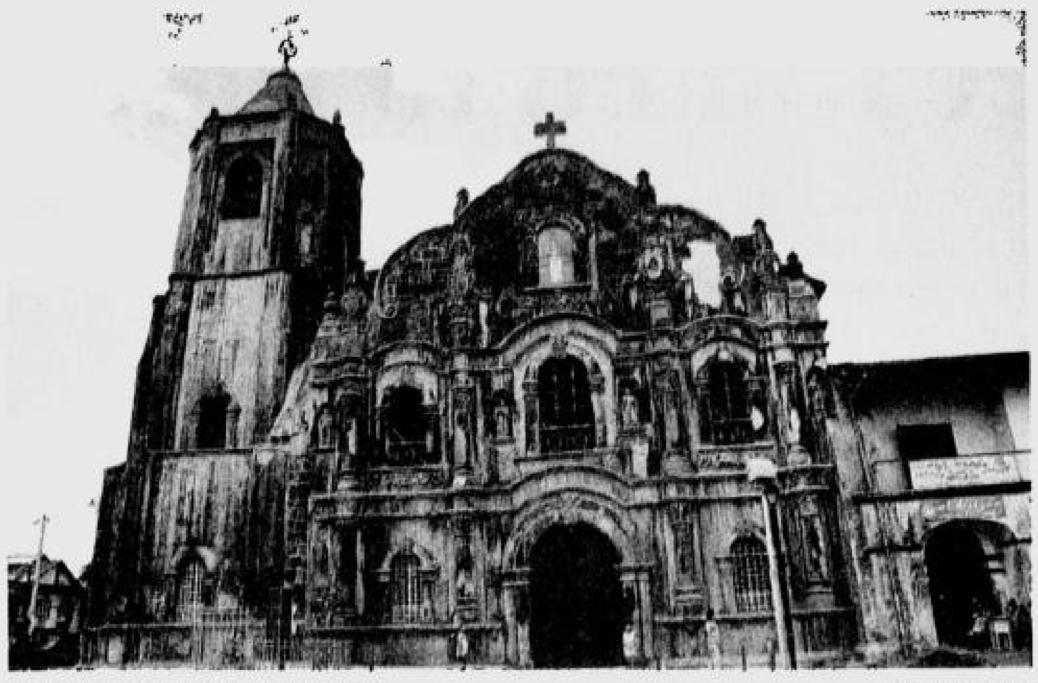
If you pass through eastern Laguna, watch out for the many spring resorts along the way, made possible by crystal-clear waters flowing down verdant and mystical Banahaw.

Going the other way opens up other possibilities. The route takes a visitor through the grand old houses of Tiaong, Candelaria and Sariaya, remnants of what was once a booming coconut trading area.

Old houses

The sights, smells and sounds serve to whet the traveler's appetite for more. Lucban, 133 km south of Metro Manila, has more in store for even the most jaded travelers.

You've reached the town when you see the succession of old, Spanish-style houses that have been converted into small hardware stores, convenience stores, bakeries or pension houses along the main road called, what else, but Quezon Avenue, after the province's most famous son, the late President Manuel L. Quezon.


CHURCH of St. Louis of Toulouse
JEROME C. DUMLAO

One such converted old house is the Patio Rizal Hotel and Restaurant where a family of three can stay the night for just a little over P2,000 for a superior room.

First-time travelers to Lucban will find it convenient that most everything worth seeing in the town is a short walking distance from each other.

Just below Patio Rizal is the Rizal Park. Quite unlike other monuments dedicated to the country's national hero, the life-size statue was executed by a local artist, and the base is lovingly adorned by Rizal's famous "Mi Ultimo Adios" (My Last Farewell) in its original Spanish.

Across it is the municipal hall, with a marker that explains how Lucban was founded as a Franciscan mission. Many of its sons fought against Spanish rulers. The most famous of them is Apolinario de la Cruz, more known in history books as Hermano Pule.

Cuisine

For founding the Cofradia de San Antonio, De la Cruz drew the ire of the Spanish friars who branded him a heretic. He did not sit well with the Spanish civilian authorities either, and was soon executed.

Near the town hall and the towering statue of Rizal is Buddy's restaurant, which locals should be thankful for because it helped popularize Lucban cuisine in Metro Manila. This includes the famous Lucban *pansit* (noodles) with thick slices of *sayote*, *pechay* and, of course, the generous *lechon kawali* strips to flavor the *miki* noodles.

But locals say what really makes Lucban *pansit* special is not so much the ingredients but the *miki*. Use another kind and you won't get the same flavor, no matter how much *lechon kawali* you put into it, they declare.

And the best place to buy the *miki* is the Center Miki Factory, an unassuming place near the restaurant. It has been making the noodles since 1937 and claims to be the home of the original *pansit hab-hab*.

They refuse to divulge the secret of making the *miki*, but at least a visitor can take a kilo of that famous *miki* noodles for just P30.

Noodles on banana leaf

From there, it's just a few steps to the Church of St. Louis of Toulouse. The church was first built in 1593 but it was destroyed in 1629. Another church was immediately put up, but it was destroyed, too.

The present church with its impressive facade, typical of old Spanish churches, was completed in 1738, and it has retained much of its look of antiquity today for visitors to enjoy.

After saying a short prayer, it's off to the public market, which is the best place to eat the *pansit hab-hab*.

Students, office workers, tourists and locals of all persuasions and income brackets stand around the giant *kalderos* here, eating *pansit hab-hab* on banana leaves sans utensils.

Eating the broth-flavored native noodles with vegetables and meat off the leaf gives *hab-hab* its name. And for just P5 a serving, it's a filling snack indeed.

From there it's back to the hotel, but not before passing by Eker and Ely's, which has been selling Lucban *longganisa* (sausage), heavily flavored with vinegar and garlic, since 1958.

Eker and Ely is just one of the many *longganisa* shops dotting the streets near the public market.

Men and women quickly and methodically putting in their own meat mixture into casings made of pig intestines to make Lucban *longganisa* are also common sights.

Those with a sweet tooth will not be left out in Lucban for the town produces a whole line of native goodies perfect for *pasalubong*, such as broas, or lady fingers, *apas*, and *puto seko* or rice cookies.

'Kiping'

And if you've missed the Pahiyas festival, no need to fret, for you can get a piece of the action by going to Lucban Kiping Manufacturing along San Luis St. for souvenir items inspired by the famous festival, during which the town is transformed into a showcase of the earth's bounty.

Manager Nat Deveza says he and his wife decided to go into the business to help keep the interest in the festival alive the whole year through.

Deveza says the store is even called on by the local tourism office to demonstrate to tourists how the *kiping* is made.

Kiping refers to ground rice dough that is kneaded, dyed, dried and shaped into leaves.

It's not hard to make, Deveza says, and Lucban Kiping Manufacturing is happy to show tourists how to make their own.

As night falls, you may need a light jacket because the temperature here drops to the 20s, thanks mainly to the cooling effect of Mt. Banahaw, quite a welcome change to the cloying heat of Manila.

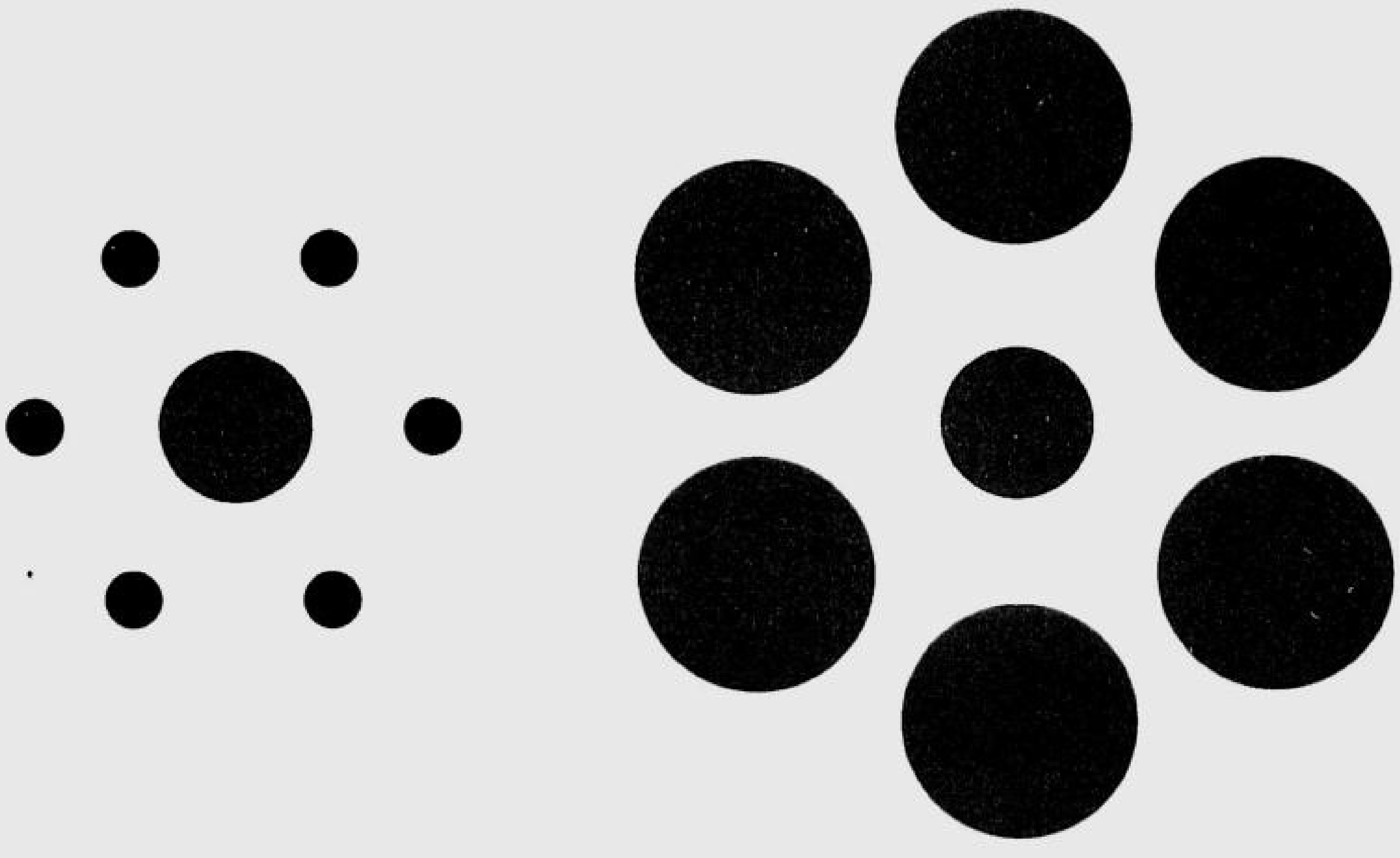
Lucban, however, is still not too cosmopolitan, so the town usually sleeps before midnight.

It also wakes up early, why not when there's the sight of Mt. Banahaw bathed in early morning sunlight to feast on.

But all good things must come to an end, so like most travelers just sneaking a break, it's time to head back to the city.

But as you leave with the car full of *pasalubong*, you do so with a promise to come back soon for a quick, yet satisfying, visit.

Which middle circle is bigger?



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2 Aussie pilots refuse to take off shoes; reason, dirty Naia floor

From page A1

Council (AOC) confirmed the incident to the INQUIRER.

But Oscar Paras, senior assistant general manager of the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa), said he was not aware about the crew's predicament.

"I just heard that from you. All I was told that for whatever reason, they didn't want to take off their shoes but our people stood their ground," Paras said in a phone interview.

The pilots' names were not immediately made available.

Well-placed airport sources said in separate interviews that the two pilots supposedly told the security personnel that they were not against the security procedures, which included the mandatory removal of shoes for all airport users at the final security checkpoint.

"But they observed that the floor was dirty, so they didn't want to take off their shoes," one of the sources said.

No chairs

"Moreover, they noted that there weren't any chairs where they could sit down so they could put on their shoes again after the check," the source said.

The source said he was informed that the floor was cleaned and subsequently, the pilots complied with the measure.

Ironically, hours earlier, the Philippine National Police-Aviation Security Group (PNP-ASG) decided to exempt airline staff and crew, and airport personnel from removing their shoes at the final checkpoint.

"It would only be mandatory for passengers in both domestic and international terminals," said Chief Supt. Andres Caro II, ASG director, in a phone interview.

Airport and airline workers have complained that having to remove their shoes every time they pass through the final security check causes delay in their work, as well as in flights, Caro said.

He ordered the mandatory removal of shoes at the final checkpoint at the Naia and domestic terminals following an INQUIRER report two weeks ago that an "antiterrorism expert," Samson Macariola, managed to breach security and bring in bomb components on a domestic flight.

NBI appearance

According to the report, Macariola claimed to have hidden a C4 bomb material in his shoe.

Yesterday, the expert surfaced at the National Bureau of Investigation to deny any part in the security breach. He issued an affidavit to clear his name of "any wrongdoing unjustly attributed to him."

Contributor Arlyn dela Cruz, who wrote the report, said she stood by her article, citing interviews with Macariola and mobile phone text messages from him.

"I categorically and vehemently deny the utterly false, misleading and malicious allegations and innuendos that I brought an actual bomb or explosive device inside a plane on that particular flight or any other flight for that matter," Macariola said in an affidavit he submitted to NBI Regional Director Reynaldo Esmeralda, chief of the agency's Special Task Force division.

Wearing sunglasses, Macariola refused to talk to reporters and asked his lawyer Jose Calida to speak in his behalf.

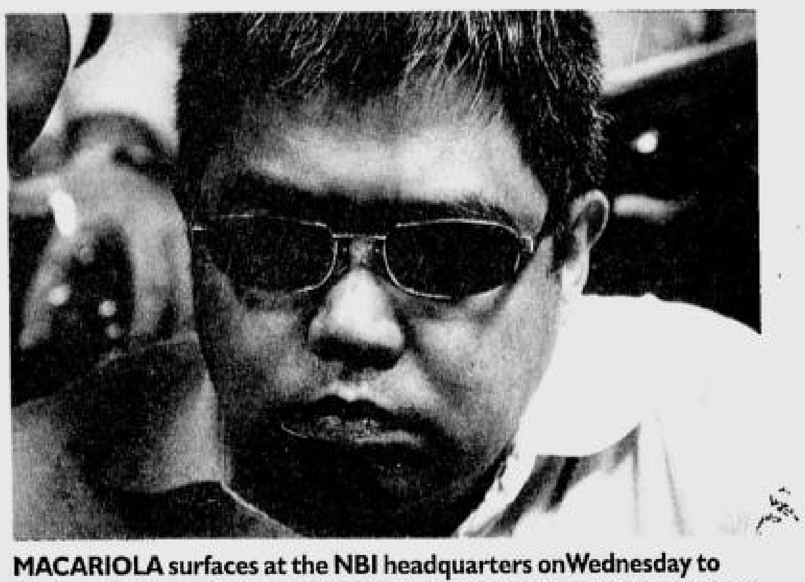
Special lane

Caro said the airport authority had decided to designate a special lane for airline staff and crew and airport personnel so they would not have to take off their shoes.

"But they would have to take off their shoes if they walk through X-ray alarms. They would also have to divest items with metal properly so we can resolve (the cause of alarm)," he said.

Paras said the security measures implemented by the Miaa and the ASG always depended on the authorities' security assessment.

"We have to adjust to the situation. That's why there are also different security alert levels," he said. *With a report from Margaux C. Ortiz*



MACARIOLA surfaces at the **NBI** headquarters onWednesday to "categorically and vehemently deny the utterly false, misleading and malicious allegations" of story that he smuggled explosive device aboard a domestic plane. REM ZAMORA

Chinese justice for all at the click of a mouse

From page A1

Tested for two years in a court in Zibo, a city in the eastern coastal province of Shandong, the software covered about 100 different crimes, including robbery, rape, murder and state security offenses, according to a South China Morning Post report.

"The software is aimed at ensuring standardized decisions on prison terms. Our programs set standard terms for any subtle distinctions in different cases of the same crime," the newspaper quoted the software's developer, Qin Ye, as saying.

A Beijing-based software company had worked with the Zichuan District Court in Zibo since 2003 to develop the program and input mainland criminal law, the newspaper said.

Judges enter details of a case and the system produces a sentence, the newspaper said.

"The software can avoid abuse of discretionary power of judges as a result of corruption or insufficient training," the newspaper quoted the Zichuan District Court chief judge, Wang Hongmei, as saying.

But some Chinese newspapers have criticized the move as a farce that highlighted the "laziness of the court." They also voiced doubts that use of the software program would curb judicial corruption.

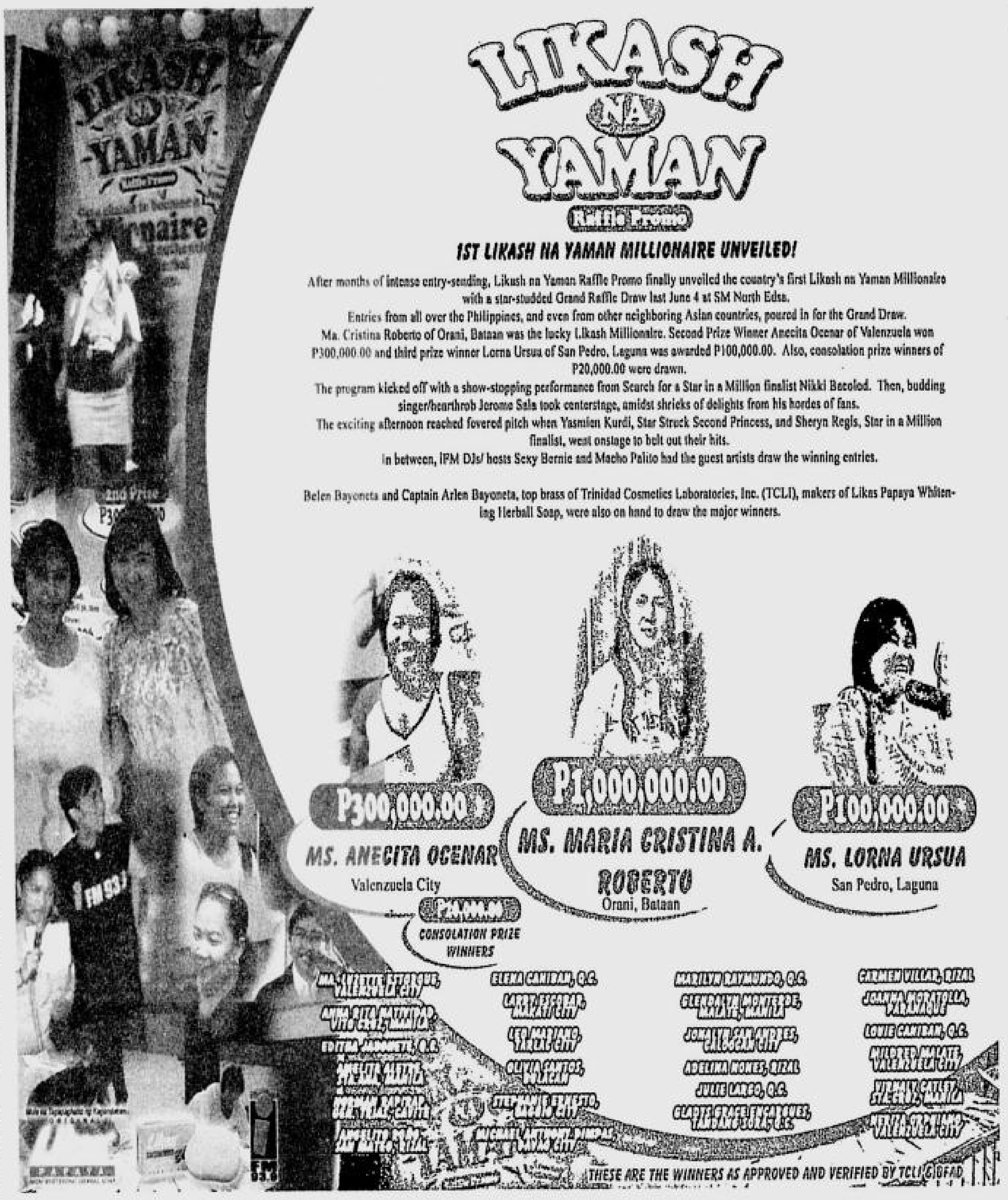
Still, Chinese authorities said the software program would be adopted by more courts in Shandong province, according to the South China Morning Post.

The newspaper did not say how big a role the software program played in sentencing criminals. Chinese court rulings are often decided by "trial committees" made up of judges and Communist Party officials.

Despite campaigns to reform China's courts, judicial abuses, official influence and arbitrary sentencing remain a widespread concern, particularly in lower courts where many judges have never even been to law school.

On Tuesday, the Supreme People's Court said that media spokespersons would be appointed by local courts in China to release information on open trials and court activities to ensure the public's right to know.

But details of cases involving state or commercial secrets, privacy and juvenile delinquency are banned from being disclosed, the Beijing News said. *Reuters*



1ST LIKASH NA YAMAN MILLIONAIRE UNVEILED!

After months of intense entry-sending, Likash na Yaman Raffle Promo finally unveiled the country's first Likash na Yaman Millionaire with a star-studded Grand Raffle Draw last June 4 at SM North Edsa.

Entries from all over the Philippines, and even from other neighboring Asian countries, poured in for the Grand Draw.

Ma. Cristina Roberto of Orani, Bataan was the lucky Likash Millionaire. Second Prize Winner Anecita Ocenar of Valenzuela won P300,000.00 and third prize winner Lorna Ursua of San Pedro, Laguna was awarded P100,000.00. Also, consolation prize winners of P20,000.00 were drawn.

The program kicked off with a show-stopping performance from Search for a Star in a Million finalist Nikki Bacolod. Then, budding singer/heartthrob Jerome Sala took centerstage, amidst shrieks of delights from his hordes of fans.

The exciting afternoon reached fevered pitch when Yasmien Kurdi, Star Struck Second Princess, and Sheryn Regis, Star in a Million finalist, went onstage to belt out their hits.

In between, IFM DJs/ hosts Sexy Bernie and Macho Palito had the guest artists draw the winning entries.

Belen Bayoneta and Captain Arlen Bayoneta, top brass of Trinidad Cosmetics Laboratories, Inc. (TCLI), makers of Likas Papaya Whitening Herball Soap, were also on hand to draw the major winners.

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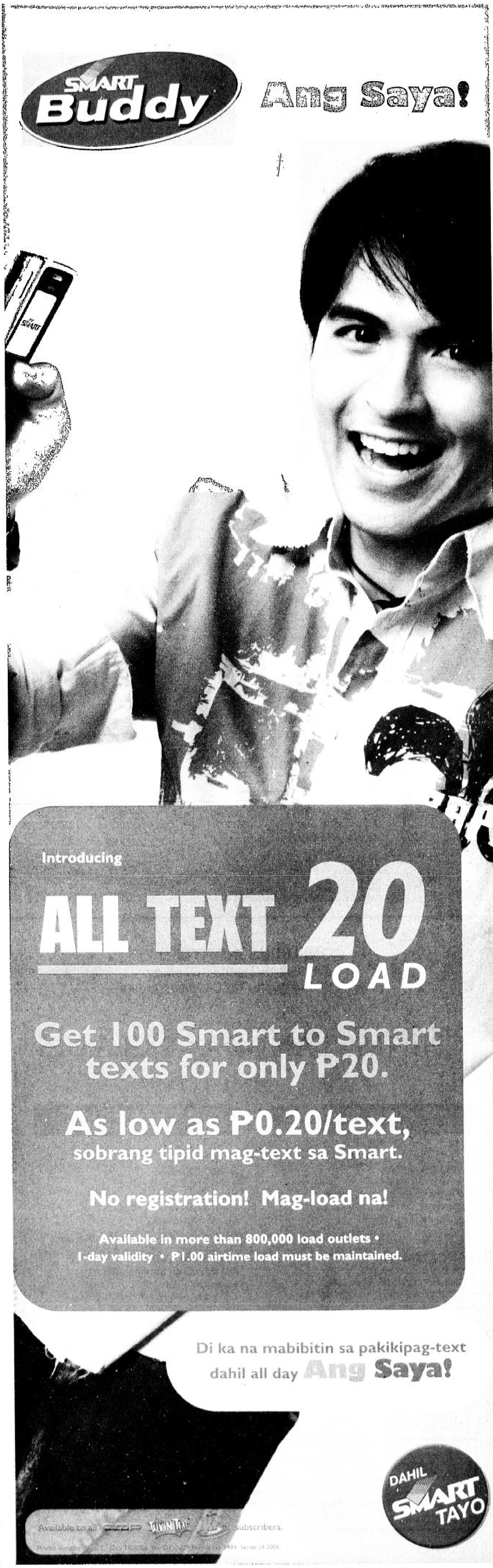
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Singapore kicks out 2 RP activists

TWO FILIPINO ANTI-GLOBALIZATION ACtivists were deported from Singapore yesterday after they attempted to enter the city state on their way to Indonesia's Batam Island to attend an International People's Forum—an alternate caucus to the International Monetary Fund-World Bank summit.

Bobby Diciembre of the Freedom from Debt Coalition and Chona Leah Ramos of Jubilee South and Global Call to Action Against Poverty, were held overnight at Changi Airport and put on the next flight back to Manila, reported Lidy Nacpil, international coordinator of the NGO Jubilee South.

Singapore is hosting the IMF-WB summit this week and has banned 28 activists from various nongovernment organizations from entering the city state, even those duly accredited by the IMF-WB.

Apparently, they are also banning those who merely want to pass through Singapore to get to the IPF forum in Batam, which is 45 minutes away by ferry. The alternative forum will air nongovernment criticism of IMF-WB policies.

"Before they even reached the immigration desk, someone approached them and led them to a holding room where they were interrogated," Nacpil said.

"They were held overnight and were not allowed to make any phone calls to notify colleagues or family. Their cell phones were taken and returned only in the morning when they were about to board their flight back to Manila," said Nacpil, who expressed "outrage" at the incident.

"Until we boarded the plane bound for Manila, there was no clear explanation from Singapore police and immigration authorities on why we were refused entry.

"We wanted to know what violations we committed. But they just told us to write the immigration and checkpoints authority to inquire," Diciembre told reporters.

Singapore police could not immediately confirm the deportations, according to wire reports.

Marvic Raquiza, Asia convener of GCAP, said in a news conference yesterday that Ramos was among the persons in charge of logistics for the IPF.

"This incident severely hampers the IPF," Raquiza said. The two activists will now have to book new plane tickets for a longer route to Batam, via Jakarta.

Among the Filipinos also banned from entering Singapore are Walden Bello, executive director of the Focus of the Global South; Ana Maria Nemenzo, FDC president; and Wilson Fortaleza, FDC vice president. All have been accredited by the IMF-WB to attend its summit on governance, transparency and corruption but were later told that the Singaporean government would not allow them to enter the territory.

"Precisely because of the lack of democracy in Singapore and the severe political restrictions we face, NGOs and citizens' groups have decided to organize civil society events called the IPF parallel to the IMF-WB meetings in Singapore," Raquiza said. *Norman Bordadora and AFP*

Gov't gives Lafayette test 60-day extension

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALLOWED AUStralian mining firm Lafayette Philippines Inc. to extend the test run of its Rapu-Rapu mine by another 60 days.

Saying the country needed to proceed with economic development once environmental protection was assured, Environment Secretary Angelo T. Reyes on Tuesday approved Lafayette's motion for extension of its 30-day three-stage test run which ended on Sept. 9.

The Pollution Adjudication Board, a quasi-judicial body under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, has issued a 60-day temporary lifting order of the suspension of Lafayette's operations, allowing the firm to continue a test run of its facilities at full capacity.

"The boards found valid the regional offices' opinion that the efficiency in Respondent's detoxification system can accurately be assessed by allowing it to extend the period of operation," the PAB said in its order dated Sept. 11, citing the recommendations of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau and the Environmental Management Bureau.

The PAB, however, required Lafayette to submit within five days an updated schedule of activities within the 60-day test run, the projected efficiency of the mill recovery and the pollution and environmental management measures, and an internal audit of its environmental management system.

Lafayette was also asked to comply with certain technical requirements that will determine cyanide loading and cyanide destruction efficiency, and to monitor the dissolved oxygen levels to ensure efficient detoxification.

"I will not allow the environment to be polluted by any means ... However once the protection of the environment is assured, we must allow economic development to take place also for the benefit of our people and to boost the financial resources of the government," Reyes said in a statement yesterday.

Defend Patrimony, a nationwide alliance against mining liberalization, raised howls of protest against the extended test run, saying Lafayette should instead be required to secure a new environmental compliance certificate to prove the reliability of its new structures.

"How low should our government agencies bend for these mining transnational corporations? Lafayette is not even bringing in fresh money. It is only operating on hedge funds, how much taxes can government stand to gain out of such operations?" Ester Perez de Tagle, spokesperson of Concerned Citizens against Pollution said in a statement.

TechnoNegosyo expo opens

THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR ENTREPREneurship (PCE), a local advocacy organization known for its GoNegosyo campaign, officially opens its biggest ever technology entrepreneurship expo at the World Trade Center today.

Tagged as "TechnoNegosyo," the two-day exposition aims to further push PCE's advocacy of encouraging individuals to go into business by highlighting entrepreneurial opportunities in the science and technology sphere.

Spearheaded by Joey Concepcion III, PCE founding trustee and presidential consultant for entrepreneurship, and co-chaired by Myla Villanueva, MDi Group chair, the expo will also recognize the Ten Inspiring Technopreneurs for their unique contributions and revolutionary ideas in technology-based commercialization.

"There is an inevitable surge for technology these days," Concepcion said. "Aspiring entrepreneurs should pick up on that and gain inspiration from those who hit it big in the industry."

The recognition roster will include the remarkable advancements in computer software technology by PC Industry visionary Diosdado Banatao, whose chip discoveries made him one of the most successful entrepreneurs in the Silicon Valley; Joey Gurango, who provided software engineering services for the Microsoft development platform; and Peter Valdes, an elite member of Oxfords' "Who's Who in the computer industry," the genius behind the middleware software.

Innovating and popularizing the Internet age through Mozcom, Dr. William "Bill" Torres and Dr. Willy Gan (posthumous) will be recognized for their revolutionary contributions to the World Wide Web phenomenon. Dennis Mendiola, the man behind Chikka.com, who made PC to mobile communication possible and online gaming pioneers, father and son tandem Nonoy and Ben Colayco of Level Up!, will also be awarded.

Danny Manayaga, who introduced the manufacturing of enzymes, essential oils and plant extracts, joins the roster for his contributions in the biotech industry.

Recognition will also be given to Manny Pangilinan (PLDT), whose remarkable business leadership and vision of convergence greatly improved communication services and applications; Orlando Vea, the visionary of mobile communication who pioneered Smart Telecommunications; and Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, the man behind the remarkable successes of Globe Telecommunications.

The TechnoNegosyo expo, which will be open to the public from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., expects to house over 160 exhibitors. Among these are Globe Telecom, Bayantel, PLDT/Smart, Microsoft Philippines, and other technology providers.

Aplus METRO

Editor **Ester G. Dipasupil**

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Binay: After Pasay mayor, I'm next

Mayor exposes alleged Palace plot to destroy the opposition

By Tarra V. Quismundo

AFTER PASAY MAYOR WENCESLAO "PEEWEE" Trinidad, could Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay be next?

Binay yesterday called a press conference to expose what he claimed was a plan by Malacañang to crack down on leaders of the opposition in time for the 2007 elections.

The mayor—who is also the leader of the United Opposition (Uno)—said he has received an order from the Office of the President directing him to answer within 15 days charges filed against him by his staunch political rival, Roberto Brillante.

According to Binay, the order dated Sept. 1 and signed by Deputy Executive Secretary for Legal Affairs Manuel Gaite said "failure of respondents to submit their verified answer within the period aforestated shall be considered a waiver of their right to present evidence in their behalf."

Charged along with Binay were his vice mayor, Ernesto Mercado and 16 of the city's councilors.

The mayor said the charges against him—grave abuse of authority and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of service—were based on allegations that he had listed ghost employees on the City Hall payroll.

He denied the accusations which he described as "political maneuvering," adding that the complainant, Brillante, had been convicted for libeling him, and was also at the forefront of an administration-backed signature drive in support of Charter change.

Still, Binay said he would submit himself to the legal process. "During these extraordinary times, there is increasingly less reason to have faith in the sense of fairness of Malacañang. Nevertheless, I intend to reply to the memorandum."

"It seems they are really hell bent on destroying the opposition. I hope Malacañang will be prudent in deciding the case," he added.

Binay was joined at the press conference by other opposition leaders, including former

BINAY/ A20

DID YOU KNOW

THE CULTURAL Center of the Philippines—the country's premier institution for culture and the arts—was created in 1966 through then President Ferdinand Marcos' Executive Order No. 30, which sought to promote and preserve Filipino arts and culture. It was inaugurated on Sept. 8, 1969, with then California Gov. Ronald Reagan, future US president, as special guest.

CCP is now attached to the Office of the President and is under the umbrella of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts. The CCP building is located on Roxas Boulevard in Manila.

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The Truth About Hair Transplants: One Man's Confession

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Paul, 42, *Businessman*
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Wild River ride at Star City remains closed

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE WILD RIVER RIDE AT THE STAR City amusement park in Pasay City will remain closed until further notice.

The order came from Pasay City officials who inspected the site yesterday following the accidental death of a 13-year-old girl who fell from one of the log boats on the ride Sunday night.

Edwin Javaluyas, head of the City Engineer's Office, said they have recommended some safety measures which should be implemented by park officials before the Wild River ride could be reopened.

These include the installation of safety railings along the log boat tracks to prevent a repeat of Sunday's incident.

Another recommendation was to clear the area where the ride is located of electrical wires which could be a potential cause of accidents, especially when these come into contact with water.

"I am preparing a letter indicating these recommendations to the park management," Javaluyas told the INQUIRER.

"If they would comply promptly with our recommendations, the suspension order on the Wild River ride would be lifted," he added.

The city government shut down the Wild River ride the other day after the death of Rachel Gem Suba. According to the police, the girl felt dizzy and stood up from the log boat, falling from a height of 38 feet.

Javaluyas added that acting Pasay Mayor Allan Panaligan, who was with the inspection team yesterday, was also considering requiring the park management to install seatbelts on the log boats.

Police investigator PO3 Reynaldo Aguba had earlier noted that had the log boats been equipped with safety belts, these could have prevented Sunday's incident.

Star City counsel Rodinil Bugay, however, said in an earlier interview that the attraction, which was recently inspected by engineering consultants from California, was not designed with safety belt features. The park's safety engineers pointed out that installing safety belts could only cause more danger to passengers.

City officials, meanwhile, have allowed Star City to operate its other rides during the amusement park's grand opening on Sept. 16.

METROBRIEFS

5 establishments closed

THE MANILA City government has shut down five business establishments in the city for defying repeated warnings to keep their premises clean. Closed were Design and Quality Furniture Repair, a furniture shop on Jose Abad Santos Avenue; J-Girls Billiard Center, JMRC Marketing and Norman Glass Supply, all on Blumentritt Street and another furniture repair shop in Sampaloc, Manila. Officials of the city's Bureau of Pemits and Licensing Office said notices of closure were recently served on the owners of the establishments. Rafael Borromeo, chief of City Hall's Department of Public Services which recommended the closure, said the permits of the establishments were also revoked. Manila has more than 50,000 business establishments. Of the total, Borromeo said at least 275 were given a warning for maintaining dirty premises. "Most of them complied the first time we reminded them to maintain cleanliness, but these five establishments did not so they have to suffer the consequences," he added.

Tina G. Santos

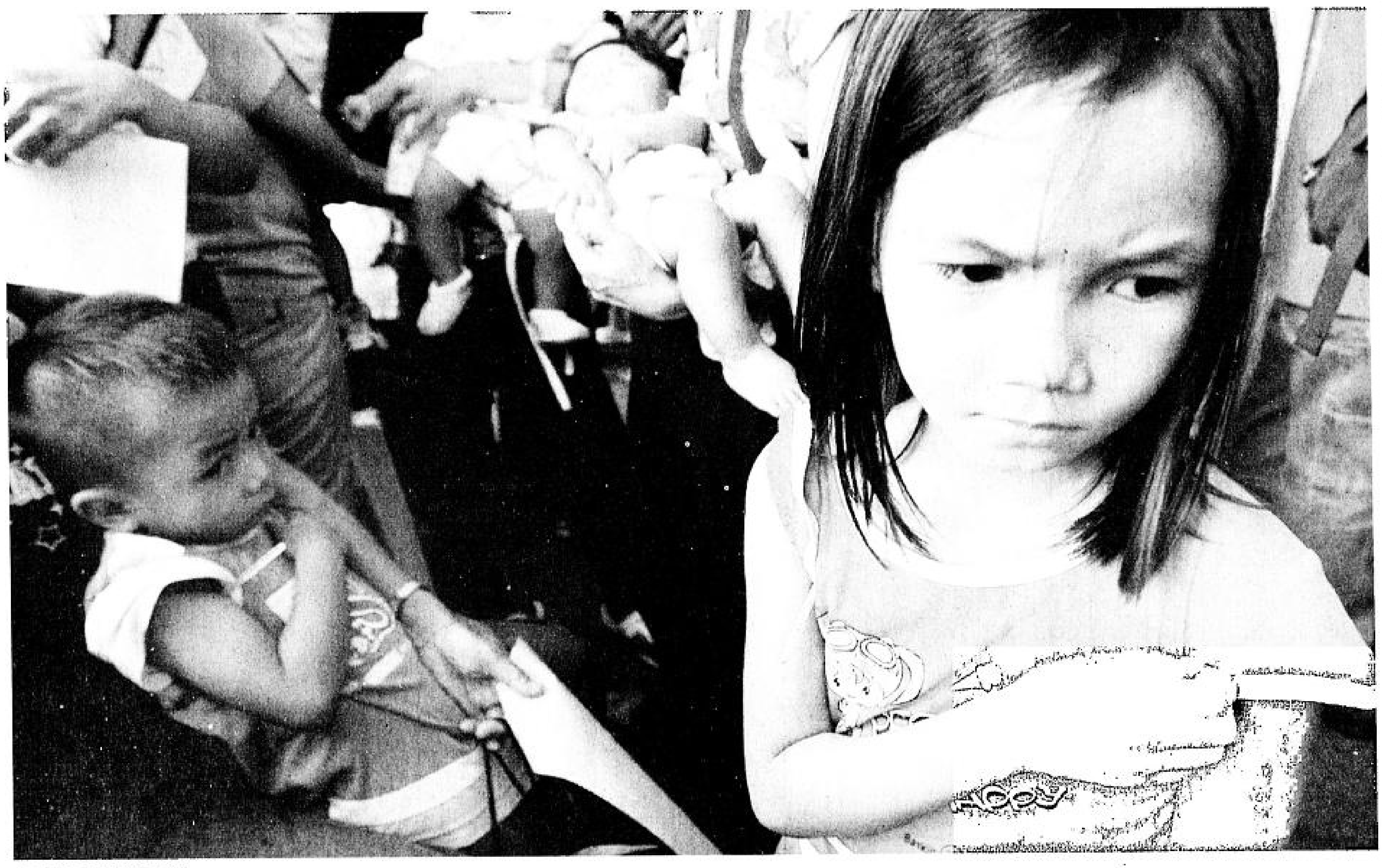
New police precinct

WITH the creation of a new barangay in Marikina City, a new police community precinct has also been established. Manned by a dozen policemen including a precinct commander, the new precinct will look after the more than 29,000 residents in the newly created Barangay Tumana. "This will somehow boost our anticrime efforts," Marikina police chief Supt. Sotero Ramos told the INQUIRER the other day. The city has one of the lowest police-population ratios in the metropolis: One policeman for at least 1,700 residents, figures from the Eastern Police District said. Barangay Tumana, which runs across a posh subdivision and a thickly populated urban poor area, used to be part of Barangay Concepcion Uno, formerly the biggest barangay in Marikina City. The decision to split the huge barangay was aimed at making governance more manageable, Vice Mayor Marion Andres had said earlier. Residents voted in favor of the split during a plebiscite in March, increasing the number of barangays in the city to 16, following the creation of Barangay Fortune out of Barangay Parang last year.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

Sick baby needs help

ONE-YEAR-OLD Lennon Borlagdan is very sick. He needs to undergo chemotherapy after he was diagnosed by doctors at National Children's Hospital to be suffering from liver cancer. His family, however, cannot afford the treatment as his father, Dennis, is only a farmer and his mother, Roseline, a housewife. Lennon is the youngest of six children. The family, who lives in Irosin, Sorsogon, is appealing for help from readers who would like to help Lennon recover from his illness. The family can be contacted at 0928-7276384. Donations can be coursed through the Bank of the Philippine Islands account of Lennon's aunt, Helen Grace Borlagdan. The account number is 003-0000-374.



ANXIOUS WAIT
A girl looks worried as she and other children are checked for dengue symptoms at the Antipolo Community Hospital in Rizal province. Antipolo has recorded the most number of dengue cases in the province.
RAFFY LERMA

Stay home after midnight, Muntinlupa cops tell minors

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THINK TWICE BEFORE GOING ON A late night out with friends.

This was the advice given by Muntinlupa policemen to minors after 32 teenagers were apprehended on Tuesday night for violating the city's regulation on curfew.

Of the 32 minors, 14 were from Barangay Putatan, 11 from Barangay Bayanan and seven from Barangay Poblacion.

The teenagers were detained overnight in the barangay hall in their areas before they were turned over to their parents yesterday morning.

Mayor Jaime Fresnedi had earlier directed Muntinlupa police chief, Supt. Jose Mario Espino, to intensify the curfew law which prohibits residents in the city aged 17 and below from being out on the streets between midnight to 4 a.m.

Fresnedi said the law is aimed at preventing minors from getting into trouble as well as protecting them from becoming victims of crimes.

In a statement, the mayor also reminded residents that the ordinance remains in effect and that he was serious in enforcing its implementation.

OPPOSITION stalwarts (from left) Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco, San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona and Sorsogon Rep. Francis Escudero express support for Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay (in glasses) who has denounced the filing of charges against him by Roberto Brillante, a political rival. EDWIN BACASMAS

Binay: After Pasay . . .

From page A19

Vice President Teofisto Guingona, House Minority Leader Rep. Francis Escudero, Makati Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino, opposition mayors JV Ejercito of San Juan and Toby Tiangco of Navotas and other city officials.

According to the Makati mayor, the latest victims of the government crackdown on the opposition were Trinidad and 11 other Pasay City officials who were suspended by the Ombudsman for entering into alleged anomalous contracts on garbage collection and disposal.

"Trinidad's suspension is an example of the iron fist approach. We were told that other opposition local executives have been lined up for suspension. I have reliable information that I am next," Binay said. He added, "The independence of local governments is under threat from a regime that is dead set on taking complete control over the entire machinery of government. For those who refuse the enticements, the velvet glove comes off, revealing the iron fist."

Guingona called the order a manifestation of Malacañang's "selective injustice. Had Binay been in favor of Charter change, would an order like this been issued?" he asked. "It could happen to any of us," said Tiangco. He said he was confident that if a case were to be filed against him, it would not prosper but "they could always fabricate charges."

With Nancy C. Carvajal

Joc-Joc Bolante dishonored Rotary

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE SENATE HAS SHOWN IT IS NOT doormat when it had Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) Chair Camilo Sabio arrested for consistently snubbing its summons for him to appear before one of its committees.

The other PCGG commissioners escaped arrest because they were not in their respective offices when the warrants were served.

Sabio's arrest has sent a clear message that other officials of the executive department who ignore their invitations would suffer his fate.

It was time the Senate stood up to Malacañang.

The Palace has perhaps forgotten that Congress is a co-equal branch of government, along with the Judiciary.

* * *

Sabio said he had expected his arrest. Then why did his blood pressure shoot up if he was expecting to be taken in by Senate law enforcers?

Another question, which should also be asked of those who have consistently snubbed Senate summons: If they are not hiding anything, why are they afraid to appear before Senate or House probers?

* * *

Former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante probably had a guilty conscience for preferring a US jail over his appearance in the Senate.

Bolante is being sought to account for the disbursement of the P720 million agricultural fund.

Bolante is a crony of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

It was Mr. Arroyo who had recommended Bolante as agriculture undersecretary to his wife, the President.

Since Mr. Arroyo is close to Bolante, he has the moral authority to convince the former agriculture official to honor the Senate invitation.

* * *

Bolante has brought dishonor to the Rotary Club International where he is a high official.

He should have been guided by the Rotary's four-way test: 1) Is it the truth? 2) Is it fair to all concerned? 3) Will it bring goodwill and better friendship? 4) Is it beneficial to all concerned?

I wonder why he has not been expelled by the prestigious civic club.

I also wonder why another Rotarian has not been expelled for being unfair, untruthful, unfriendly, and always thinking only of himself.

* * *

On my way to the office yesterday morning, I brought my car to a halt to let a woman cross the pedestrian lane along Libis, Quezon City.

But another car behind me missed the pedestrian by an inch, and never slowed down after the near accident.

The Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) should concentrate on enforcing traffic rules, like stopping at a red light and respecting the right of pedestrians to cross the streets.

A couple of years ago, I nearly got hit by a jeepney as I was crossing Mabini Street in Manila.

I confronted the jeepney driver and demanded why he didn't stop since I was using the pedestrian lane.

His reply made my blood boil: "*Hindi ka naman naano, 'di ba* (You were not hit, were you)?"

I didn't let that pass.

But how many pedestrians are as assertive?

* * *

Most traffic violators in the streets of Metro Manila—and even in other big cities like Cebu and Davao—are jeepney drivers.

These drivers have no respect for traffic rules at all.

They pick up or unload passengers in the middle of the road, go through a red light, or go against traffic on one-way streets.

If I had my way, I would send all of them back to driving school or revoke their licenses.

Roldan defends judge's decision allowing him to post bail

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

AS FAR AS FORMER CONGRESSMAN and actor Dennis Roldan is concerned, the court did the right thing when it allowed him to post bail.

Roldan, who is charged with kidnapping a 3-year-old Chinese-Filipino boy, filed his comments last week on the motions filed by the prosecution which asked the court to reconsider its ruling granting him bail. Prosecutors also asked Pasig City Regional Trial Court Judge Agnes Reyes-Carpio of Branch 261 to inhibit herself from hearing the case.

Kidnapping is a nonbailable offense. But in her decision two months ago granting him bail, Reyes-Carpio said the prosecution evidence presented so far in the trial against Roldan was weak.

Barely six days after the actor's petition to post bail was approved by the court, Roldan's lawyers Sigfrid Fortun and Karl Castillo withdrew from the case without giving the judge a reason.

Roldan had a difficult time securing a new defense team and was only able to hire a lawyer after three weeks, delaying the filing of his opposition to the prosecution's motions.

His new lawyer, Giovanni Mata of the Salatander and Associates Law Office, filed Roldan's comments on Friday.

Prosecution lawyer Philip de la Cruz, meanwhile, told the INQUIRER they were already preparing their comment, which they would be filing probably next week.

In its twin motions filed earlier, the prosecution said Carpio, in granting Roldan bail, ignored the testimonies of at least 10 prosecution witnesses, many of whom had said Roldan was involved in the kidnapping, and instead gave more weight to the testimony of two witnesses whose credibility was "questionable."

Thai PM will not seek reelection

BANGKOK—EMBATTLED THAI LEADer Thaksin Shinawatra will not seek another term as prime minister after upcoming general elections, a senior member of his party said Wednesday.

The comment came from Chakaphan Yomchinda of the Thai Rak Thai party, who interviewed Thaksin last week for a three-part television program.

"The prime minister did not speak clearly about his political future but as one of his subordinates I can read his signal clearly: He will not take the position of prime minister after the next elections," Chakaphan said before the first part of the interview was aired on TV Channel 5 on Wednesday.

Thaksin has been widely accused of corruption, abuse of power and seeking to erode Thailand's democratic institutions. Months of street protests forced him to temporarily step down from his position, after which he returned on a caretaker basis pending elections which will probably take place before the end of the year.

Chakaphan, who is regarded as a mouthpiece of the prime minister, said Thaksin would talk about his political future in the interviews scheduled for Thursday and Friday. The Wednesday interview focused on the prime minister's family, hobbies and accomplishments over the past five years.

THAKSIN

In only a short passing reference, Thaksin said the "prime minister may change after the elections."

Thaksin, who is currently on a foreign tour, said in the interview that his life has been "uncomfortable" since an alleged attempt to assassinate him last month.

Five members of the army have been arrested in connection with the alleged plot to explode a powerful bomb near his residence. Some critics accuse the government of cooking up the plot for its own political purposes.

"I lead my life normally, but it is uncomfortable since I have to follow rules about security. I have to think about my security and the dignity of the country," he said. "You can imagine what the reputation of the country would be like if its leader was assassinated."

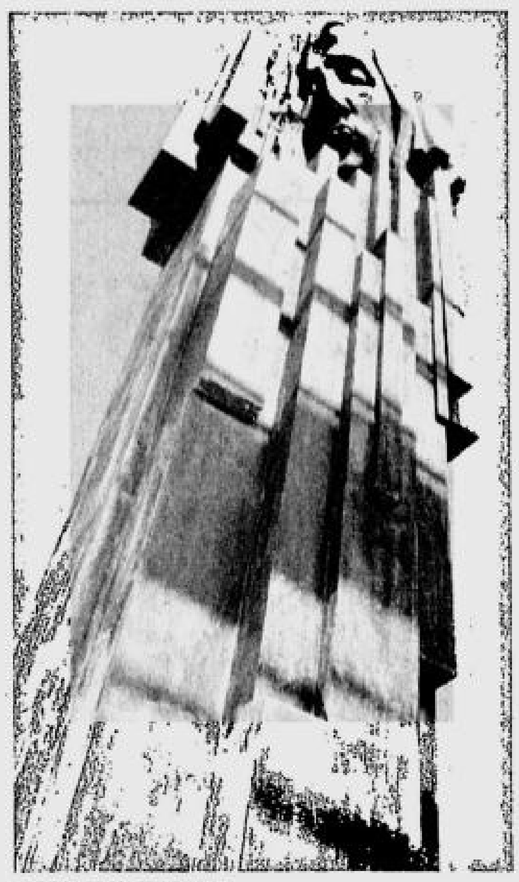
Thaksin said his security team advises him to alter his daily routine and change the venues of his golf games.

Thailand has had no working legislature and only a caretaker government since Thaksin dissolved Parliament in February for snap elections in April. He called the polls three years ahead of schedule in a bid to defuse the mounting protests against him.

New elections have been scheduled for Oct. 15 but there are widespread doubts they can be organized in time. New election commissioners were only put in place last week.

Thaksin's party won the April elections, but the three parliamentary opposition parties boycotted the polls and millions of voters marked an abstention box on their ballots as a protest against the prime minister.

Because a minimum vote rule was not met in some constituencies, winners could not be certified, and Parliament could not be convened. *AP*


GIFT TO CHINA
A statue of Polish composer Frederic Chopin designed by Chinese artist Lu Pin is displayed Sept. 12 outside a factory in the southern Polish town of Gliwice. The statue will be transported to China later this year. AFP

Hamas allows negotiations with Israel

GAZA CITY—HAMAS AGREED TO LOOK the other way while a government it heads negotiates with Israel, bending its policy of rejecting the Jewish state in a desperate attempt to restore vital foreign aid cut off because of the Islamic group's violent ideology.

Ghazi Hamad of Hamas, a spokesperson for the current government, said Tuesday that after the moderate Fatah is brought into a unity coalition, it can talk with the Israelis. Hamas rejects the existence of a Jewish state in the Middle East, but Fatah, headed by President Mahmoud Abbas, favors peace negotiations.

Hamad said negotiations with Israel were the responsibility of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which Abbas heads. That nuance could allow Hamas to maintain its hardline ideology while pursuing international aid, which was cut off when it set up its government in March.

Israel, the United States and European Union label Hamas a terror group and insist it must renounce violence, recognize Israel and accept previous peace accords.

In Washington, State Department spokesperson Tom Casey said the US would not resume aid until the Palestinian government accepts all the conditions.

Visiting Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Moratinos said the new Palestinian coalition could be a "positive step in principle," but he stopped short of saying whether it would be sufficient to persuade the EU to restore aid to the Palestinian Authority. "We'll have to study the details at the next meeting in Brussels, which will be on Friday, before we can come to an answer," Moratinos said. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Taiwan's bid blocked

UNITED NATIONS—China and its allies on Tuesday blocked Taiwan's bid for United Nations membership for the 14th consecutive year. A UN committee rejected a proposal to put on the agenda of the 61st UN General Assembly session the "question of the representation and participation of the 23 million people of Taiwan in the United Nations." The assembly's General Committee, a panel on which all 192 UN members have a voice, made the decision by consensus, without a formal vote, a UN official said. The 61st Assembly session officially opened on Tuesday. ***Reuters***

Yemen stampede

SANAA—More than 50 people were crushed to death in a stampede Tuesday at an overcrowded stadium in southern Yemen during an election rally by President Ali Abdullah Saleh, a week ahead of polls already marred by violence. The stampede occurred when tens of thousands of people tried to gain entry into the sports stadium at the town of Ibb which was already crammed with some 100,000 rallygoers, witnesses said. The official SABA news agency said 51 people had been killed and 238 wounded, though most of the injured had left hospital after treatment. ***AFP***

Iran offers help to Iraq

TEHRAN—Iran's president pledged undying support for Baghdad's new government on Tuesday, telling Iraq's visiting prime minister and fellow Shi'ite Islamist, Nuri al-Maliki, that Tehran would help him end the violence at home. "We will give our full assistance to the Iraqi government to establish security," Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad told a joint news conference. ***Reuters***

Sri Lanka peace talks

BRUSSELS—Sri Lanka's warring parties have agreed to unconditional peace talks next month, the battle-scarred country's international dialogue partners announced in Brussels on Tuesday. The decision by the government and the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) was discussed at a meeting of the island's main foreign aid donors here, top Norwegian peace broker Erik Solheim told AFP. "The government of Sri Lanka said it was ready for talks without any pre-conditions and the LTTE has said the same," Solheim said. "We will have the talks in the first week of October in Oslo." ***AFP***

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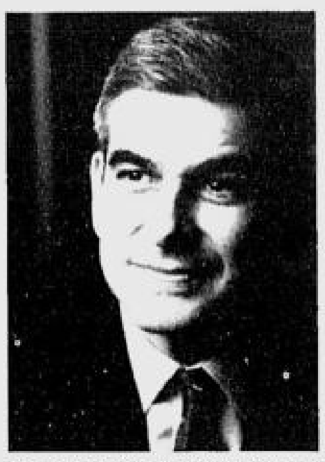
Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II
Ayala Group

Dado Banatao
Tallwood Ventures

Ben Colayco and Nonoy Colayco
Level Up!

Joey Gurango
Webworks

Danny Manayaga
Secura Natural Products

Dennis Mendiola
Chikka Asia

Manuel V. Pangilinan
PLDT / Smart

Dr. William Torres and
Dr. Willy Gan* (posthumous)
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DAY 1 September 14, Thursday
9:00 Registration and Conference Program Overview
9:30 Ribbon Cutting
10:15 Awarding of the 10 Inspiring Technopreneurs
10:45 **FORUM 1: "Profiling the Technopreneur"** Panelists: Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala (Ayala Corp.), Atty. Felipe Gozon (GMA Network). Moderators: Myla Villanueva (MDI Group Holdings), Joey Concepcion (PCE) & Cito Beltran (ANC)
1:00 **FORUM 2: "Broadbanding your Business"** Panelists: Ben Colayco (Level Up!), Ray Espinosa (ePLDT), Joevel Rivera (Bayantel), Judd Gallares (GMA New Media Inc.), Antonio Mapa (Innove Communications), Ricardo Pronove (GoVida), Dr. Bill Torres (Mozcom), Dennis Valdes (Philweb) Moderators: Dondi Mapa (Dell Philippines) & Ces Drilon (ABS-CBN Broadcasting)
2:45 **FORUM 3: "Growing Money from Trees: Business Opportunities in Biotechnology"** Panelists: Dr. Nina Halos (Arnichem Biofertilizers), Jun Lao (Chemrez Biodiesel), Sammy Lalay (Elixir Pacific International Corp.), Danny Manayaga (Secura Natural Products) Moderators: Maoi Arroyo (Hybridigm Consulting) & Mari Kaimo (ABS-CBN)
Hosts: Tessa Prieto-Valdes & Paolo Bediones

DAY 2 September 15, Friday
10:10 **FORUM 4: "Jumpstarting your Tech Venture"** Panelists: Domingo Bonifacio (Remec Broadband Wireless), Joey Gurango (Webworks), Martin Lichauco (Walden International Phils), Atty Christopher Lim (Quisumbing Torres Law Firm), Dennis Mendiola (Chikka Asia), Dennis Posadas (Rice Bowl and Chips Author), Mark Yambot (Microsoft) Moderators: Paco Sandejas (Narra VC) & Pia Hontiveros (ANC)
1:00 **Idea Factory** Promising technologies/applications from IT companies, researchers and scientists are presented as business opportunities to entrepreneurs, funders and angel investors, in search of mentoring and financial support for incubation, development and next-stage growth. Reactors: Maoi Arroyo (Hybridigm Consulting), Joey Gurango (Webworks), Dickie Gonzalez (PESO); VC/Investor Panel: Martin Lichauco (Walden International Phils.), Gerry Valenciano (ICCP), Paco Sandejas (Narra VC), Myla Villanueva (MDI Group Holdings) Moderators: Anthony Pangilinan, Twink Macaraig (ANC)*
2:30 **FORUM 5: "Trending Tomorrow: Where Technology is Taking Us"** Panelists: Patrick Aronson (Motorola), Ricky Banaag (Intel), Ernest Cu (SPi Technologies), Tunde Fafunwa (Bayantel), Benedict Hernandez (eTelecare Global Solutions), Karrie Ilagan (Microsoft), Butch Jimenez (PLDT), Patricio Pineda (Globe Telecom) Moderators: Anthony Pangilinan and Karen Davila (ABS-CBN)
6-9 PM **Cocktails / Launch of Mentoring Website gonegosyo.net**
Hosts: Connie Sison & Anthony Pangilinan

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Syria probes attack on US Embassy

But Damascus says Washington fueling terrorism

DAMASCUS—SYRIA WAS INVESTIGATING Wednesday who was behind a bold but foiled attack on the US Embassy in Damascus in which Islamist gunmen used grenades, automatic weapons and two explosives-laden vehicles.

Three assailants and a member of Syria's antiterror squad were killed in a shootout during the bid to storm the embassy, which came at a time of particularly tense relations between Washington and Damascus.

One of the gunman who was captured during the attack has been cooperating with Syrian authorities, a senior US official said. Syrian Interior Minister Bassam Abdel Majid told US chargé d'affaires Michael Corbin that the attacker was "providing information to Syrian security authorities," but it was not immediately known who was behind the assault, State Department spokesperson Tom Casey said.

Casey said the attackers used two vehicles containing explosives, one of which approached the front of the embassy and the second moved toward the rear of the compound.

"The vehicle near the front of the compound did, in fact, explode, the other wasn't detonated," he said.

The Syrian state news agency SANA quoted Interior Minister General Bassam Abdel Majid as saying "the terrorist attack failed. It did not achieve the objectives of the criminals responsible." SANA also described the attackers as "takfiri" or Islamic extremists, although no group has yet claimed responsibility.

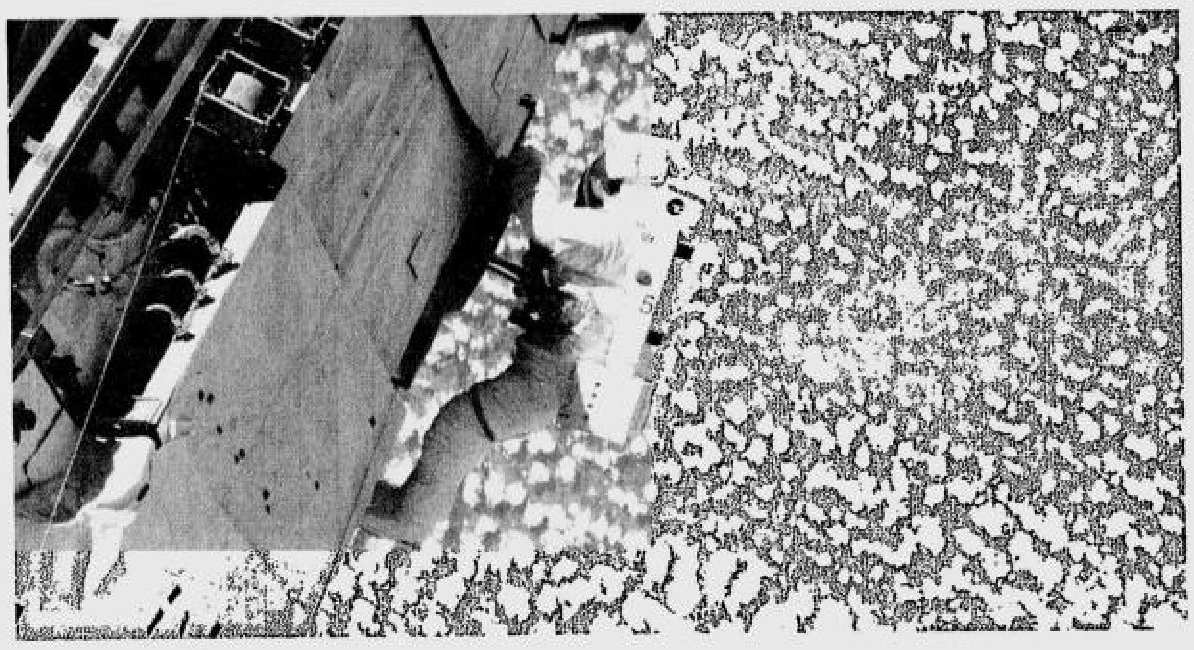
The United States praised Syria's action in foiling the attack, while several other nations vowed to boost security at their missions in Damascus and US embassies on their own soil.

"I do think that the Syrians reacted to this attack in a way that helped to secure our people and we very much appreciate that," US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said.

"It also once again illustrates the importance of Syria being an important ally in the war on terror," added White House spokesperson Tony Snow. "We are hoping they will become an ally and make the choice of fighting against terrorists." Relations between Washington and Damascus have been strained over Iraq, the war in Lebanon and Syria's support for Palestinian militants opposed to the peace process with Israel, and last week the White House branded Syria and its top regional ally Iran "especially worrisome" threats.

"All embassy personnel and their family members are safe," the US embassy said in a statement, adding that the mission would stay closed for at least another day and calling on Americans to adopt a low-profile.

"The Syrian government has pledged full security cooperation." But the Syrian Embassy in Washington said "it is regrettable that US policies in the Middle East have fueled extremism, terrorism and anti-US sentiment. *AFP*



SPACEWALK
This image provided by Nasa Tuesday Sept. 12 shows Astronaut Joseph R. Tanner, mission specialist, moving outside of the International Space Station to install a truss during the first of three scheduled spacewalks. AP

100 nations call for talks on Iran

HAVANA—REPRESENTATIVES from more than 100 developing nations meeting in Havana called Tuesday for unconditional negotiations to resolve the tense standoff over Iran's nuclear program.

Delegates at the six-day Non Aligned Movement (NAM) summit also lashed out at Israel, but dropped a proposed demand it be punished for "warcrimes." While the Middle East was high on the agenda, with the expected arrival of the Syrian and Lebanese presidents, the gathering was also the scene of rival lobbying by Venezuela and Guatemala for a seat on the UN Security Council. Caracas claimed it had locked in the votes to get a seat.

As senior officials met for a second day, it remained unclear whether Cuban President Fidel Castro, 80, would show up in the summit in what would be his first public appearance since he underwent intestinal surgery in July. The officials hammered out separate resolutions on Iran and the Palestinian territories, while also fine-tuning a draft final document the heads of state and government are to adopt on Saturday. Issues such as terrorism, Iran and the Middle East were hotly debated, participants said.

On Iran, the officials essentially updated a resolution adopted by a NAM meeting in May, but added a paragraph stating the need for an "unconditional resumption of dialogue," the head of a prominent delegation said privately.

The statement adopted at the May gathering in Putrajaya, Malaysia insisted any country had the right to use nuclear energy and welcomed what it said was Iran's "voluntary confidence-building efforts" aimed at resolving the issue. *AFP*

UN wants Hezbollah disarmed

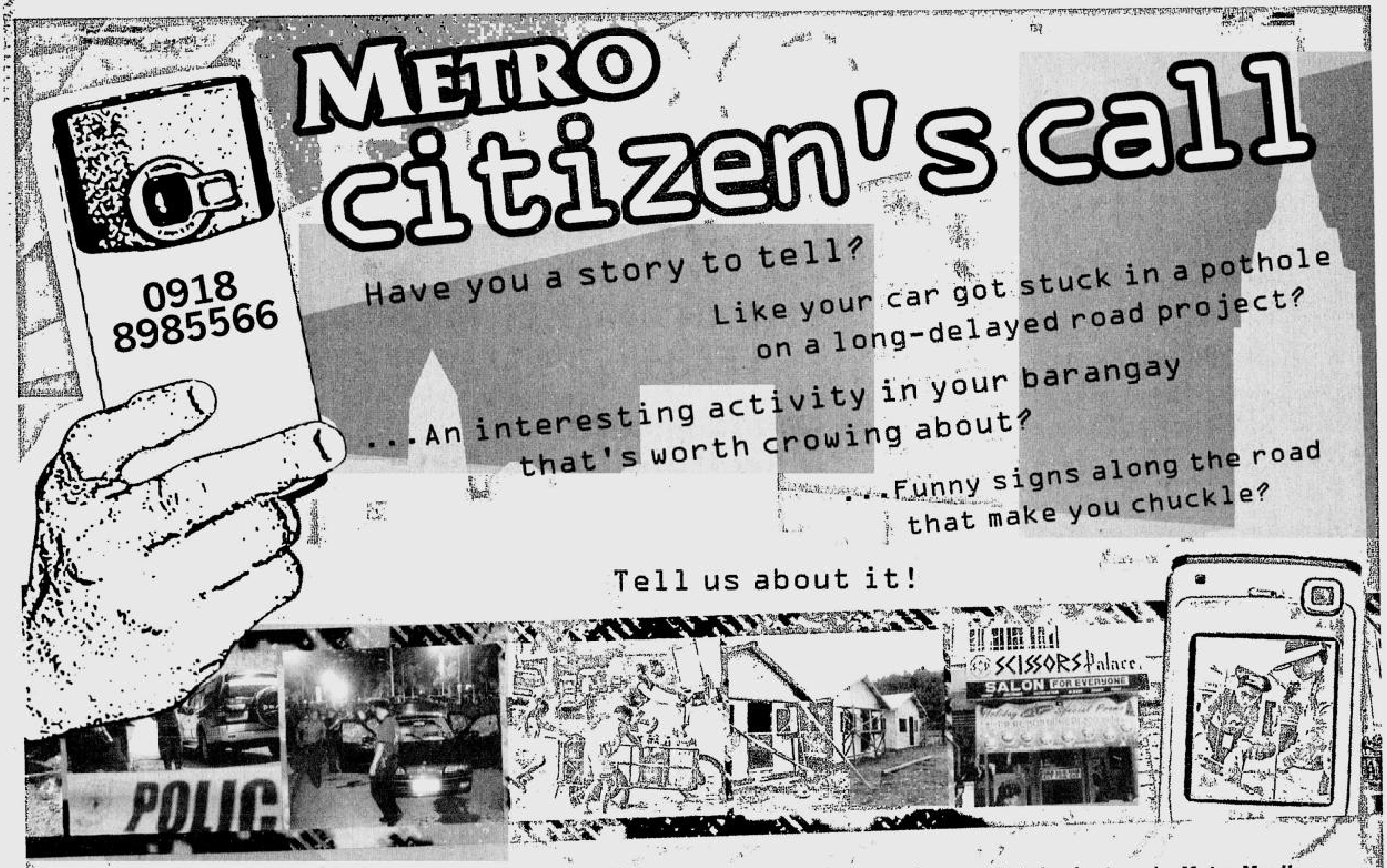
UNITED NATIONS—UN CHIEF Kofi Annan, in a report on Lebanon released Tuesday, underscored the need to disarm the Iranian-backed Shiite Hezbollah militia and to reach a just and comprehensive peace in the broader Middle East.

The secretary general said he had been encouraged during his recent Middle East tour by statements made by the various parties, including Iran and Syria trip, and said he expected "their further tangible cooperation." "No state in the region or elsewhere would tolerate the existence of armed groups which challenge the state's monopoly on the legitimate use of force throughout its territory," Annan said referring to Hezbollah.

Hezbollah has refused to surrender its weapons as called for by UN Security Council Resolution 1701, which paved the way for the truce that ended the 34-day war between Israel and the Shiite militant group in Lebanon.

Israel launched an offensive against the Iranian-backed militia in July following the capture of two Israeli soldiers by Hezbollah guerrillas in cross-border raids that left eight other troops dead.

Hezbollah has pledged to support Resolution 1701, but warned that it would not disarm until Israel ends its occupation of all Lebanese territory. *AFP*



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Pacman leads weight race against Morales/A25

SAN Beda's Sam Ekwe blocks Mapua's Kelvin dela Peña in yesterday's semifinal game. RYAN LIM

Lions, Dolphins forge NCAA title showdown

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SAN BEDA AND PHILIPPINE CHRISTIAN took different paths yesterday before forging a showdown for the 2006 NCAA men's basketball championship at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Red Lions barged into the finals for the first time in nine years with a hard-fought 55-51 win over Mapua while the Dolphins humbled the defending champion Letran Knights with a 72-50 rout.

The Dolphins reached the finals for the third straight time under three different coaches.

"We are happy to be in the finals once again," said PCU coach Joel Dualan, who in the pre-season replaced Junel Baculi. "But we are not afraid of San Beda because compared with them, we have been in the championship for the past three years while they didn't even reach the Final Four last year."

The Dolphins, who won in 2004 under Ato Tolentino, and the methodical Lions, who are eyeing to end a 28-year title drought, begin their best-of-three title series Monday.

It was sweet revenge for PCU, which strung up five straight victories en route to the finals capped by a back-to-back romp over Letran, which denied the Dolphins a second straight title in the finals last year.

What was expected to be a tough match turned out to be a lopsided affair as the Dolphins came out firing on all cylinders with PBL veterans Beau Belga, Gabby Espinas and Jason Castro on the firing line.

In contrast, PBA-bound Knights Aaron Aban (Alaska Milk) and Boyet Bautista (Purefoods) had a grand total of one point in the fourth quarter where the Knights finished with only six points.

Great game

Earlier, top-ranked San Beda trailed No. 4 semifinalist Mapua for most of the game before exploiting its taller and more talented lineup to pull through.

"Mapua played a great game, we can't deny that," said San Beda coach Koy Banal. "But they surely brought out the best in us."

The Cardinals stayed within striking distance before top henchman Yousif Aljamal poured seven of his 20 points late in the fourth quarter to settle the issue.

The Lions won their last title in 1978 with a team led by Chito Loyzaga, Frankie Lim and Jayvee Yango, who became PBA stars before retiring.

In the first game, San Sebastian downed San Beda, 61-52, to make it to the juniors championship series.

The scores:

First Game (Jrs)

SAN SEBASTIAN 61—Buenafe 13, Bringas Ar 12, Del Rio 10, Bringas An 9, Nasayao 9, Zulueta 4, Sikat 2, Soledad 2, Penaflor 0, Juan 0.

SAN BEDA 52 —Marcelo 17, Lanete 14, Padilla 12, Cua 3, Yulo 2, Ranises 2, Cruz 2, Babilonia 0, Panaligan 0.

Quarters: 15-12, 30-16, 46-32, 61-52.

Second Game (Srs)

SAN BEDA 55—Aljamal 20, Menor 9, Gamalinda 7, Angeles 6, Escobal 5, Ekwe 4, Maggay 3, Tecson 1, Taganas 0, Evangelista 0, Hermida 0.

MAPUA 51—Gonzales 11, Dela Pena 11, Del Rosario 10, Tiongco 6, Pascual 5, Co 4, Mazo 2, Pascual 2, Sumalinog 0.

Quarters: 15-13, 22-29, 38-40, 55-51.

Third Game (Srs)

PCU 72—Espinas 16, David 15, Garrido 10, Castro 10, Belga 9, Amparado 8, Navarro 2, Chien 2, Salem 0, Santos 0.

LETRAN 50—Bautista 16, Aban 12, Jazul 6, Guevarra 6, Mondragon 5, Ranises 2, Faundo 1, Daa 1, Balneg 1, Realista 0, Quinday 0, Del Rosario 0, Dangcal 0.

Quarters: 16-8, 38-25, 51-44, 72-50.

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FVR new chair emeritus of FedGolf

FORMER PRESIDENT FIDEL V. RAMOS, who was the main backer of golf during his six-year stint in Malacañang, has accepted the position of chair emeritus of the Federation of Golf Clubs Philippines Inc.

An avid golfer, FVR can become a catalyst for growth of the country's largest organization of private golf clubs, according to Ogie Manalo and Richie Garcia, Federation president and chair, respectively.

"Can there really be anyone better suited for this position? If anything, over-qualification comes to mind," said Manalo yesterday.

"It is timely for the Federation, which is entering its second decade of service to its membership, to avail of FVR's wealth of experience, wisdom and love for the game to guide it to its future."

Ramos was instrumental in conceptualizing the Federation which has 34 private clubs all over the country under its wing. He is expected to further promote junior golf development and training for competitions of the national players.

Just last year, Ramos was awarded the title Patron of the Asian Golf Tour in Singapore.

It was during FVR's presidency when the country enjoyed a golf boom that saw the mushrooming of golf courses and the population of local golfers peaking to an all-time high.

With his full support, the Philippines successfully hosted two major events that gained worldwide attention, the World Amateur Team Championships at Sta. Elena Golf Club and The Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club in 1996 and the Johnnie Walker Classic at The Orchard Golf and Country Club in 1995.

After his term, FVR continued to use golf diplomacy to the hilt in his many travels to showcase our country to world leaders and business communities abroad.

Only recently, his foundation organized the 4th Sino-Filipino Friendship Golf Tournament in Zhuhai, China, where almost a hundred businessmen from China and the Philippines played and opened doors to possible trade partnerships.

His generosity in lending his influence has helped groups like the Jungolf Foundation achieve its goals and led to the establishment of cooperatives for caddies and employees of golf clubs.

RAMOS

No pressure for Falcons, Tigers in tiff for 3rd spot

GAMES TODAY *(PhilSports Arena)*
10 a.m.—UST vs UP (Women)
12 noon—Ateneo vs FEU (Women)
2 p.m.—UP vs Adamson (Jrs)
4 p.m.—UST vs Adamson (Srs)

THE SANTO TOMAS TIGERS AND THE Adamson Falcons hardly feel the pressure when they dispute the third spot in the UAAP men's basketball tournament at 4 p.m. today at the PhilSports Arena.

As the league's darkhorses, the Tigers and Falcons wrapped up the elimination round tied at 6-6 to crash into the Final Four.

STANDINGS	W	L
x Ateneo	10	2
x Univ of East	8	4
x Santo Tomas	6	6
x Adamson	6	6
Far Eastern	5	7
Univ of Phils	4	8
National	3	9

X—Clinched Final Four berths

The winner of the match will battle the second-ranked University of the East Warriors, while the losing squad will face the top-ranked Ateneo Eagles.

"We want to relax and see it as an ordinary game," said Tigers coach Pido Jarencio.

The Eagles and the Warriors, both heavy favorites from the start of the season, will be armed with the twice-to-beat bonus in the semifinals starting Sunday.

Achievement

For coach Leo Austria, it's already an achievement for the Falcons to end 12 years of mediocre performances and earn their first Final Four berth since the league adapted the format.

"From the start, I told them the Final Four is achievable," said Austria. "We were able to make it to the semifinals, so whatever happens, we're happy. But I'm sure the players will give their best because it's an achievement for the school if we finish at No. 3."

Clinching a semifinal berth was also a huge accomplishment for the Tigers, who played with a depleted lineup most of the season due to various illnesses and injuries.

"We entered the Final Four through hard work," said Jarencio. "We're still playing to win, we want to stay focused."

As the Tigers finally enter a game with a healthy roster, the Falcons are anticipating the probable absence of point guard Marvin Poloyapoy, who recently suffered from food poisoning.

It's another blow after the Falcons loss the services of starting point guard Leo Canuday late in the elimination round due to a dislocated elbow.

But the focus will be on the matchup between the league's top two centers. Adamson's Ken Bono ruled the statistical race after averaging a league-leading 21.8 points and a second-best 11.1 rebounds per game.

Also delivering impressive numbers, Tigers rookie Jervy Cruz normed 16.3 points, a league-best 12.8 rebounds and 1.3 blocks per contest.

The Tigers and the Falcons split their elimination battles. Adamson posted a 74-62 win in their first encounter, but UST avenged the loss with a 77-74 victory in the second round.

In junior play, the Adamson Baby Falcons and the University of the Philippines Junior Maroons will clash in a 2 p.m. knockout tiff. The winner will face second-seeded Far Eastern Baby Tamaraws in the semifinals. The Ateneo Eaglets already claimed the first Finals berth after sweeping the elimination round. *Jasmine W. Payo*

Bata arrives sans fanfare with Django

By Nikko Dizon

EFREN "BATA" REYES, WITH TWO INAUGURAL WORLD POOL titles in less than 20 days, arrived yesterday morning from Reno, Nevada, without fanfare and a coterie of politicians meeting him at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

But it was just as well for his fans—mostly travelers, airline and airport personnel, and well-wishers—who had a grand time congratulating and enjoying a rare meeting with the Filipino billiards ace at 5 a.m.

Cheers of "Bata!" from a group of well-wishers at the Naia Centennial Terminal 2 erupted as soon as Reyes stepped out of the airport and made his way to his car.

With his trademark toothless grin, Reyes waved, walked toward them, and gamely shook the hands of his excited fans.

Earlier, quite a number of airport personnel and passengers, including young American female tourists, were able to have their pictures taken with Reyes and get his autograph.

"This victory is for all Filipinos," said Reyes. "*Sa mga kababayan namin na nandito at nando'n, nagpapasalamat ako. Sa Nevada maraming Pilipinong umasikaso sa amin kaya bago matulog busog na busog kami* (I thank my countrymen here and abroad. In Nevada, many Filipinos took care of us so we always sleep with a full stomach)."

Reyes won $500,000 (P25.5 million), the biggest prize in billiards, after ruling the $3-million International Pool Tour (IPT) 2006 World Open 8-Ball championship at the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno.

But Reyes said the huge sum would still be subjected to a 30-percent tax in the US. His prize, he said, would be sent to him in the coming days.

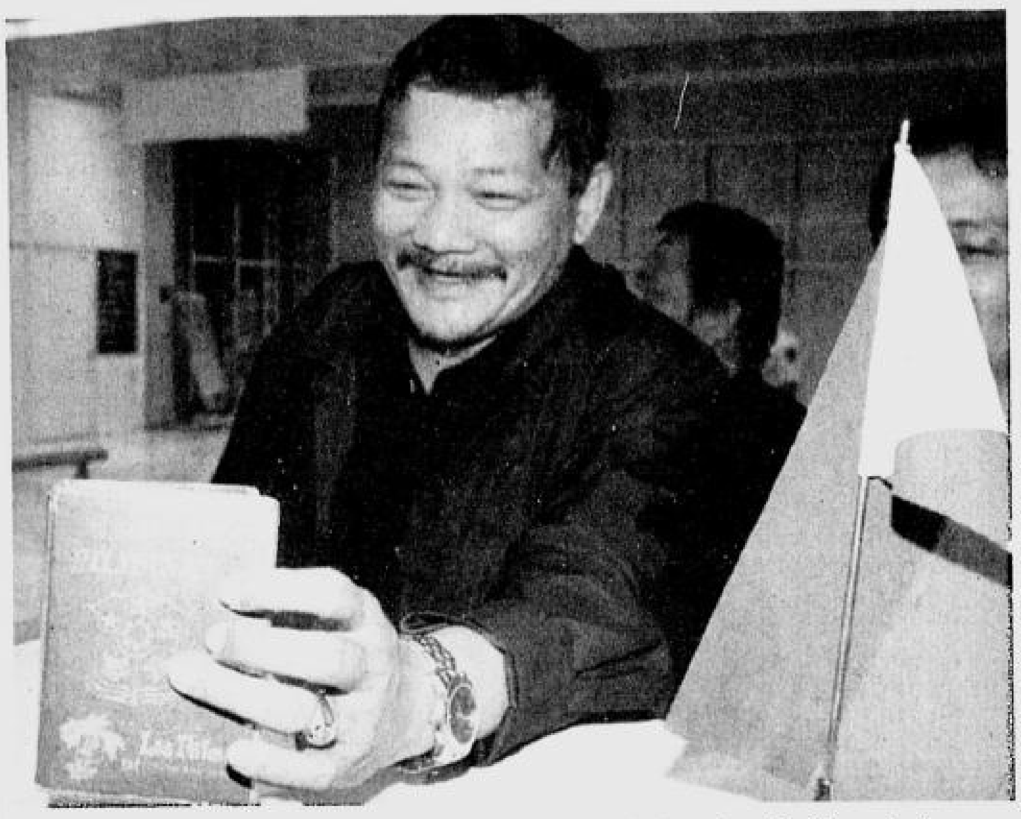
Even his IPT trophy which is as tall as him was left in the US and will be shipped home later.

Two weeks before the IPT, Reyes and close friend Francisco "Django" Bustamante split the $60,000 first prize in the inaugural World Cup of Pool after beating Americans Rodney "Rocket" Morris and Earl Strickland in New South Wales.

The bosom buddies, who call each other "Pare," arrived together on board Philippine Airlines flight PR 102 from Los Angeles.

The two will only have time to kiss their loved ones before leaving for Indonesia today to fulfill an earlier commitment to play in the fourth leg of the SMB Asian 9-Ball Tour in Jakarta.

Their arrival yesterday was so unlike that of every triumphant return of boxing legend, Manny Pacquiao, who is literally mobbed at the airport by fans and many publicity-seeking government officials.



FILIPINO billiards ace Reyes checks out of the immigration booth at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport yesterday morning. JESS YUSON

Reyes heads Team RP to Jakarta Asian 9-ball

BARELY RESTED, HALL OF FAMER EFREN "Bata" Reyes will spearhead once again Team Philippines when the 2006 San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour winds up in Jakarta, Indonesia, starting tomorrow.

Reyes, playing under the auspices of RP billiards patron Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, received his biggest ever pay check worth $500,000 by demolishing American Rodney "Rocket" Morris, 8-6, in the finals of the IPT World 8-Ball Championship recently.

Joining Reyes, also the Asian 9-Ball Vietnam leg winner, are Ramil Gallego, and Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat, winners of the Bangkok and Taiwan edition, respectively.

Joining them is former world No. 1 Francisco "Django" Bustamante, who is eyeing his first-ever Asian 9-ball tour crown.

The pair of Reyes and Bustamante also beat the tandem of Morris and three-time world champion Earl Strickland, 13-5, to win the inaugural World Cup of Pool in South Wales, Britain.

Expected to challenge the Filipinos' domination of the series are Ricky Yang, and Muhammad Zulfikri of Indonesia and reigning World Pool champion Wu Chia-ching of Chinese-Taipei.

Indonesia is also represented by Apsi Chaniago and Roy Apanco. They will be joined by top Asian pool players from 12 countries who are all likewise eyeing qualifying points for the World Pool Championships this November in Manila. *Marlon Bernardino*

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo belatedly congratulated yesterday Efren "Bata" Reyes for winning the World Open 8-Ball championship in Reno, Nevada, last Monday.

New Era, Amacu dispute 2nd slot

GAME TODAY *(Rizal Coliseum)*
1 p.m.—New Era vs Amacu

AMA COMPUTER TRIES TO FINALLY nail the second championship berth but New Era will be clinging on the momentum it gained the last time they met as they tangle once more today in the Final Four of the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities basketball tournament at the Rizal Coliseum.

The Hunters negated the Titans' twice-to-beat edge with an 83-78 decision last weekend, and could make it two straight in the 1 p.m. lone game.

The winner moves up against STI in the best-of-three title series which starts tomorrow.

Jeff de Guzman and Joseph Perlas spearheaded New Era's running game that derailed AMA's march to the finals. De Guzman fired 22 points, while Perlas added 19 to forge the rubber match.

The Olympians didn't need to use its twice-to-beat incentive when they disposed of the Centro Escolar Scorpions, 59-53, also last weekend.

The champion will become the first squad to succeed after the fall of the University of Manila dynasty.

The Hawks, who suffered heavy losses with the graduation of their key players, ended sixth in the eliminations after ruling the league for six straight years. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Rush Interclub Smashfest Saturday

JOIN THE RUSH AS THE RUSH INTERclub Smashfest 2006 holds its first and second legs over the weekend.

Interested netters from Manila, Makati, Pasig, Madaluyong, Ortigas, Marikina and Quezon City have less than a week to sign up for the badminton event that highlights amateur talents.

The tournament, which only has a mixed doubles category, is open for participants 18 years old and above. Registration is free. Call (632) 4141489.

A maximum of 16 badminton clubs from Metro Manila will slug it out for the title, cash prizes and premium items.

There will be four elimination legs to determine the top two teams that will battle in the finals slated Sept. 30 at the Olympic Badminton Club in San Juan.

The third and fourth legs will be held Sept. 23 and 24.

"This is a good venue to develop our skills in badminton," said project director Towie Vasquez. "It's like giving the novice players an opportunity to shine in a competitive field."

The event is open to all netters who are not included in the varsity teams of the UAAP, NCAA and other collegiate leagues.

National and junior pool members, even those who are in the training pools are also not allowed to compete. Same thing goes to the professional coaches and trainers.

ARCILLA

Arcilla stakes Abalos Cup title Sept. 23

DEFENDING CHAMPION JOHNNY ARCILLA will tangle with fellow national players in the P100,000 Abalos Cup slated Sept. 23 at the NCMH-Mandaluyong Tennis Club court in Mandaluyong City.

Arcilla, who won the singles and doubles titles in the Digos City Open last Thursday, is expected to face a tough challenge from Patrick John Tierro, Adelo Abadia, Rolando Ruel Jr. and Joseph Victorino, back from a one-year stint in Japan.

Aside from the men's Open, the organizing Mandaluyong Tennis Club is also holding a junior tournament for two weekends and an All-Mandaluyong team tennis event.

Registration will run until Sept. 19 (men's) and Sept. 20 (juniors). Contact tournament coordinator Cornelio Babe Gregorio (0917-7413491), Larry Olaya (0927-3860843), Ace Alcos (0917-3813741) and MTC (5319001 loc. tennis court and fax 7217617).

Nat'l chess team meet opens with 50 entries

CEREMONIAL MOVES: NCFP executive director lawyer Sammy Estimo and SK president April Dayap make the ceremonial moves of the National Inter-Cities and Municipalities Chess Tournament yesterday. Standing are James Infiesto, Gogo Alba, engineer Allan Diez, Bong Go, GM Mark Paragua, GM Joey Antonio, City Councilor Leo Avila III, NCFP director Dr. Jenny Mayor and Dr. Bongarsa Tomawis Jr. of ARMM.

DAVAO CITY—THE 2006 NATIONAL INTER-Cities and Municipalities Chess Team Championship starts today with 50 top-caliber teams seeing action at the Atrium of Gaisano Mall here.

Tagaytay City, composed of Grandmaster Joey Antonio, International Master Jayson Gonzales, Edmundo Gatus, Allan Macala and team captain and National Chess Federation of the Philippines director Willy Abalos, will be defending its title. The team is supported by NCFP secretary general and Tagaytay City Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino Jr.

GM Mark Paragua, the country's highest-rated player, will play for Davao Team A along with NM Kaharudin Tayuan, Arnel Aton, Perkins Bayron and Dr. Jenny Mayor, recent Malaysian Challengers co-champion.

The 2004 champion, Barangay Alabang, Muntinlupa City team of chair Victor Ulanday and team captain engineer Joel Hicap relies on the services of GM Nelson Mariano II, NM Julius Joseph de Ramos, Dino Ballecer and Basilio Pandan on its first team and IM Ronald Dableo, IM Richard Bitoon, Rhobel Legaspi, Noel dela Cruz, and Rolenson Loyola in the second team.

Also in contention are the five teams formed by NCFP president Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay. Davao will be represented by 11 teams.

Expected to grace the opening ceremonies yesterday afternoon were Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez and National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Prospero "Butch" Pichay Jr. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

10,000 bets joining Milo CDO elims

ARNOLD UNABIA AND HELEN TACLING will be defending their crowns when the 30th National Milo Marathon resumes on Sunday with its Cagayan Oro City elimination race at the Pelaez Sports Center.

Six slots—three each in the men's and women's divisions—to the national finals on Dec. 10 in Metro Manila are at stake in the 21K race.

Unabia, a surprise winner last year, will be challenged by former champion Juniel Languido and perennial qualifier Roger Sawin-ay.

Tacling, on the other hand, is expected to face little resistance as former champion Ailene Tolentino is already qualified to the finals after topping the 42K Metro Manila leg last July 16.

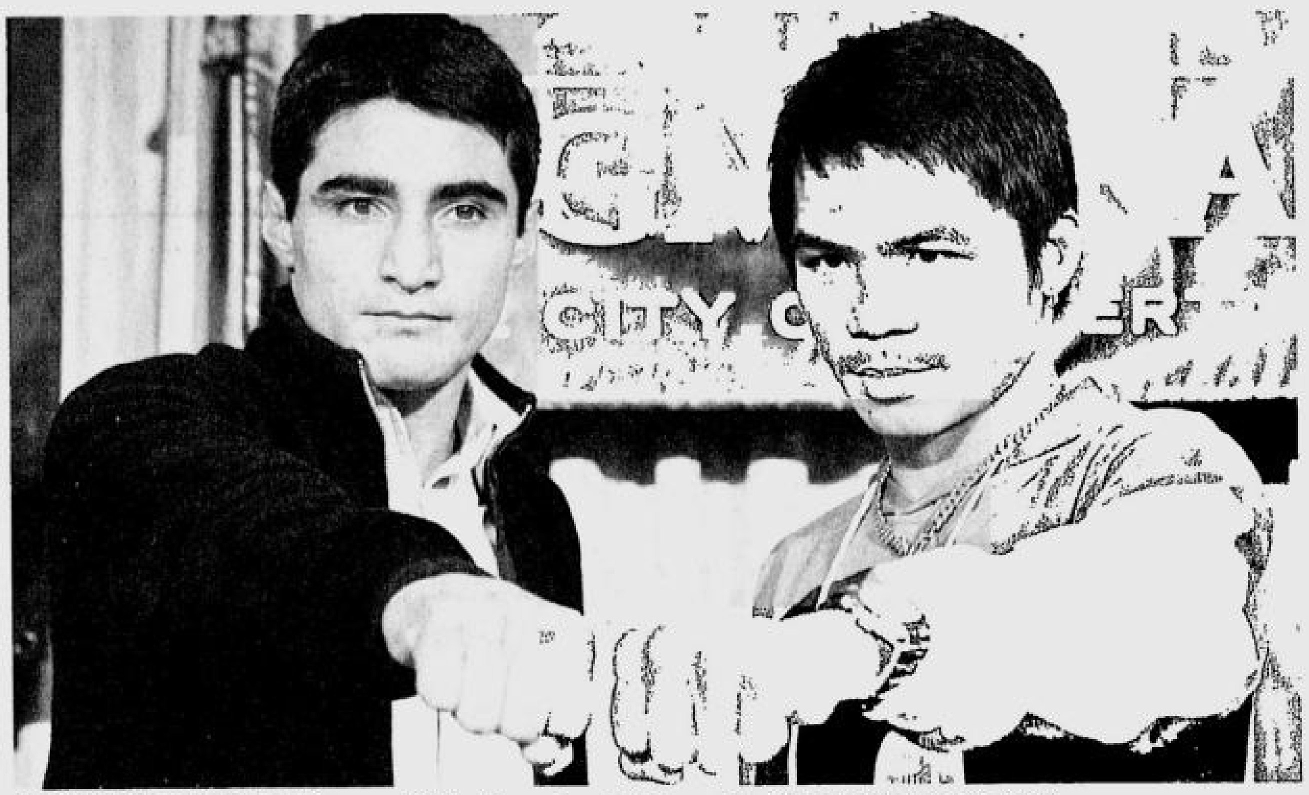
Also at stake for this Sunday's elimination run held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas, Cebu Pacific, Department of Tourism and Powerbar, are the 5K fun run, Kiddies 3K race, inter-school running contest and cheer-dance competition.

More than 10,000 runners are expected to join this Sunday's festivities offering P159,000 cash prizes plus trophies and medals to top 10 finishers in the 21K, 5K and 3K runs.

Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno will fire the starting gun for the 5K run while City Councilor Juan Sia will do the same for the 21K run. The 3K kiddie run will be flagged off by engineer Nonito Oclarid, also the City Administrator for ROTA. Expected for the awarding ceremonies are regional sales manager Trina Abola and Milo sports events executive Pat Goc Ong.

Acsat grabs F4 slot

ASIAN COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY struck in time yesterday in the final elimination round games of the fifth Universities and Colleges Athletic Association men's basketball tournament. Three triples from Lito Casil and Harvey Igtos at the start of the extra period sent the Lightnings to a 98-88 blasting of the Olivarez College Sea Lion and into the Final Four berth. The Lightnings finished the elims sharing the same 5-5 win-loss record with the Sea Lions. Emilio Aguinaldo College and St. Francis of Assisi secured the top two Final Four slots earlier in the day after whipping separate rivals. EAC stopped La Salle-Dasmarinas, 72-66, while St. Francis drubbed Philippine School of Business Administration, 69-53.



MANNY PACQUIAO (right) currently tips the scales at 138 pounds while Erik Morales is at 150.

Pacman leads weight race against Morales

MANNY PACQUIAO IS WAY AHEAD of Erik Morales in their race to get down to the 130-lb super featherweight limit for their rubber match on Nov. 18 in Las Vegas.

Reports said the Filipino boxing icon is now only eight pounds overweight while his Mexican rival is still at 150 lbs from a high of 180 when he started on a weight-reducing regimen with the help of an international team of trainers and nutritionists.

But Morales has announced that weight won't be a problem when he takes on Pacquiao for the third time in a showdown dubbed "The Grand Finale" to be held at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas.

"I train to win and not just to make weight," insisted Morales, in an interview with the Mexican media yesterday.

Morales, who has been working out at the Velocity Sports Performance Center, even boasted that he is now on the verge of making the 130-lb limit, although he did not elaborate on his current weight at the scales.

Boxers normally gain weight after their last fights and try to get back to their old poundage when they train for another outing. Morales has already fought as a lightweight (135 lbs) before his second meeting with Pacquiao, where he reportedly had a hard time making the super featherweight limit.

Both Morales and Pacquiao are set to face the media on Sept. 19 at the Beverly Hills Hotel.

The fight contract stipulates that the Mexican will have to pay half-a-million dollars if he exceeds one pound over the regulatory limit, and should he come in more than two pounds overweight, Pacquiao has the option to reject the fight, and get the one-million-dollar penalty.

Pacquiao, meanwhile, is set to leave for the United States tonight, with business associate Rex "Wakee" Salud, Filipino trainers Buboy Fernandez and Nonoy Neri, boxer Ernel Fontanilla and some other friends.

The Filipino hero is expected to be at special ringside when Marco Antonio Barrera defends his WBC super featherweight title on Sunday at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

Filipino Diosdado Gabi, now managed by Pacquiao's trainer Freddie Roach, is slated to see action in the undercard. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

Domingo leaving for France fight

PHILIPPINE BANTAMWEIGHT CHAMPION Michael Domingo will leave for France on Sept. 27 to fight French Frederic Patrac for the vacant World Boxing Foundation bantamweight title on Oct. 3.

The title fight is set in Agde, France, which is known as "The Naked City."

According to a tourism website, it is an enclosed self-contained village, where naturists can do everything in their birthday suits, including going to the bank, post office, restaurants, launderette or for a walk along the 3.5 mile beach.

Domingo, however, said he is not going to Agde to do some ogling but to demolish Patrac and win. He will be accompanied in the trip by manager Sammy "Don King" Gello-ani and trainer Edmund Villamor.

The power-punching Patrac, born in Beziers but based in Agde, holds a record of 19-7-1, with 10 KOs, and is managed by Mario Ruiz. He is the French bantamweight titlist.

Patrac had 23 fights as an amateur, winning 18, losing 4 and drawing once.

Domingo, a veteran of 43 fights, won the RP crown last year, and has successfully defended it three times. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

Concepcion eyes WBC title in US

FILIPINO PROSPECT BERNABE CONCEPCION of the Aljoe Jaro Stable takes on unbeaten Mexican Joksan "El Torito" Hernandez for the vacant WBC Youth superbantam crown on Sept. 23 in the United States.

The 18-year-old Concepcion, nicknamed the "Real Deal" and trained by Filipino Jeorge Sol, parades a record of 18 wins, 1 loss, 1 draw with 11 KOs and is considered one of the country's top prospects.

Hernandez, fighting out of Ensenada, Mexico, boasts an unblemished record of 12 wins with 8 KOs.

The WBC Youth title is for fighters aged 21 years old and below.

Concepcion was originally slated to see action this Sunday against compatriot Sonny Gonzales at the Cantada Sports Complex, but opted to answer the call of duty in the United States instead.

Concepcion gained a measure of fame lately when he called out the undefeated Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista for a fight. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

SPORTSWATCH

Jao seeks 4th Superbikes sweep

REIGNING TITLIST JOLET JAO OF SHELL ADVANCE-KAWASAKI EYES A fourth straight sweep as the 2006 Shell Advance Superbikes Series-San Mig Coffee Road Racing Championship holds its fourth leg this Sunday at the Batangas Racing Circuit. Jao firmed up his bid for a 10th road bikes crown after again sweeping the last leg and hiking his total to 150 points in the premiere Expert class of the event sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (NAMSSA). Only Benjo Mendoza of Speedeffex could stand in the way of Jao's title bid as he's just 14 points behind with 136. Joining the pack are Roderick Chua (118 points), Wacky del Rosario (110), John Diego (92), Randy Ortiz (74), Julian Goitia (63) and Bernard Mendoza (62). It will be a toss-up between Jay Carrion and Hubert Soriano The event is sponsored by Pilipinas Shell and supported by San Mig Coffee, Casino Filipino, Yokohama, Denso, Arai and Shoei.

SPORTS EXPO: Burlington Industries Phils. Inc.'s Joel Capulong shows Burlington's booth at the World Trade Center to GNC's Sherwin Bringas and Accel's Joy Dimacali.

Cusi wins SMB RP 9-Ball Cebu leg

ANTONIO CUSI EDGED ALADIN DULOA, 7-6, TO COMPLETE A SWEEP OF the 2006 San Miguel Philippine 9-Ball Open third qualifying leg in Cebu City. Duloa, a regular campaigner in national tournaments, salvaged a spot in the main draw with a 7-6 win over Roberto Ancheta. In the other half of the draw, veteran campaigner Israel Rota swept his four matches to advance. . Manuel Caro completed the qualifiers from the south after a 7-6 win over Jarry Pelayo in the loser's bracket. The four received P5,000 each and earned slots in the finals of the annual tournament co-organized by Solar and Puyat Sports slated on Oct. 12-14 in Manila. Seeded in the finals are the top eight finishers last year led by defending champion Francisco "Django" Bustamante and runner-up Dennis Orcollo and invited players Efren "Bata" Reyes, Jose "Amang" Parica, Marlon Manalo and Alex Pagulayan. *Marlon Bernardino*

NBC MEMBER: Cellular Pawnshop has joined the National Basketball Conference's 2006 National Cup starting on Sept. 16, making it the league's newest team. NBC secretary general Tito Palma (fifth from left) welcomes Cellular Pawnshop president Paolo Ibanez and the other team officials and player Rendel Delarea (left). From left: Nestor Turato, assistant coach; Joseph Co, team manager; team official Jeremy Ibanez , vice president Alex Leyva, team consultant Eugene Ibanez, team official Marianne Ibanez and general manager Jeffrey Brul.

Buenavista, Manipol banner Adidas King of the Road cast

THE 9TH ADIDAS KING OF THE ROAD HITS the road at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City at 6 a.m. on Sunday with around 2,500 runners, including members of the Philippine team, vying for the crown and the top prize of P20,000 worth of Adidas gear and P10,000 cash.

Some 310 cadets of the PNPA are also joining the 10-K event that will go nationwide next year. Senator Pia Cayetano has been invited to join.

Top favorites are two-time Olympian Eduardo Buenavista and Southeast Asian Games gold medalist Mercedita Manipol, who ruled the Adidas race in 2004. Buenavista and Manipol were also former Adidas Asian King and Queen of the Road. They skipped last year's edition because of prior engagements.

While Manipol is expected to receive little challenge, Buenavista's mettle will be tested by defending Adidas King of the Road champion Julius Sermona, who won the silver in the 5K and the bronze in the 10K events during the last SEA Games.

Though Buenavista has topped countless 42K marathons here and abroad, Sermona may steal the show because 10K is his favorite event.

Sunday's race begins and ends in front of IMAX theatre on Seaside Blvd. of the SM Mall of Asia. Parking is at the open car park of the IMAX theatre.

The age-group and team competition winners will also receive cash prizes, medals and gift packages from Globe, Cherifer Multivitamins, Snickers Chocolate Bar, Powerade, Viva Mineral Water, Blue Angel alcohol and Adidas eyewear.

According to Adidas managing director Joey Singgian, the local edition of the race next year will have four stops — Metro Manila, Cebu, Baguio and Davao. The winners will represent the country in the next Asian King of the Road either in Korea or in Thailand.

Also backing the event are the Philippine Reclamation Authority, PNP, MMDA, Pasay City TMO, Philippine National Red Cross, Philippine Center for Sports Medicine, the security force of Mall of Asia and Spectrum Communications

EDUARDO BUENAVISTA: Top favorite

10 firms back Ateneo de Naga golfest

TEN PROMINENT FIRMS HAVE SO FAR committed to support the Ateneo de Naga University High School Class 1981 Golf Cup set on Sept. 29 at the Camp Aguinaldo course in Quezon City.

These are Toyota Makati, which is offering a 2006 Toyota Vios 1.3E as hole-in-one prize; Globe Telecom, CS Enriquez, DuraStress, Target Market Communication, Cebuana Lhuillier, Interlink Travel, Syngenta Seeds Philippines, Coca-Cola Bottlers Phils. and First Philippine Thunder.

Proceeds from the 18-hole golfest will be used for the Class 1981 Scholarship Fund for deserving Bicolanos.

Tee-off time is at noon while fellowship follows at 4 p.m.

Organizers expect more citizens to join the initial list of supporters for the tourney with a noble cause.

Presidential son Dato Arroyo and Camarines Sur Governor Elray Villafuerte, both Ateneo de Naga alumni, have been invited to lead the ceremonial tee-off together with lawyer Pucoy Felismenio of the Office of the Ombudsman.

Tournament co-chair Arnel Cervantes and Jobe Bonafe were elated by the warm response of the sponsors.

For details, call Maj. Arbel Cervantes at (02) 9116001 local 6663 or 6204 or 09209520297 or Team Ventures Inc. (Emmet Penson), the event marketing and management company of the AdeNU HS '81 Golf Club at 522-5953 and 400-9745.

AAK sending team to world karatedo

THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE Advancement of Karatedo (AAK) is sending a team composed of winners in the Milo Super Karate Kids @ SM Supermalls tournament series to the 5th World Shitoryu Karatedo Championships to be held at the Tokyo Budokan Hall in Tokyo, Japan, Sept. 17, 18, 19.

Led by AAK chair Manuel V. Veguillas, the team is composed of Norman Montalvo, Gerardo Rodrigo Anonas, Ana Ecaterina Tan, Alisa Karmina Cifra, Oliver Neil Manalac, Nicole Dwayne Factor, Lemuel Alfonso Ferrer and Ven Laurence Silangil.

Also with the team are WKF karate referee and kata judge Richard Antohny Lim and coach Juan Carlos Veguillas.

Shito Ryu is one of the four major styles of karatedo that is recognized by the Japan Karatedo Federation (JKF) and the World Karate Federation (WKF). It is the main organization of Shitoryu karate led by the son of the founder Kenei Mabuni.

The AAK being the sole representative of the JKF Shitoryu Karate in the Philippines has been consistently participating in the World and Asian Shitoryu Championships.

For inquiries, call 635-6608, 635-6611 or e-mail aakrate@pldtdsl.net or aakarate@yahoo.com.

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Bunyi outdrives peers

GINO BUNYI HIT FOR 296 YARDS YESTERDAY TO RULE THE MEN'S OPEN DIVIsion of the 2006 Dunlop Long Drive Challenge at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club. Bunyi hit his best drive on his second attempt. World champion Fister personally awarded the championship trophies to all the winners in the presence of Dunlop Philippines officials Cecille Reyes, Jon Wang and Roland So.

Red Bull notches third straight victory

RED BULL REGAINED ITS COMPOSURE AFTER BLOWING AN EARLY LEAD TO defeat Coca-Cola, 102-94, last night in the PBA preseason tournament at the Emilio Aguinaldo College gym. The Barako led by 15 early, trailed by 11 midway and relied on Larry Fonacier and Leo Najorda in the end for their third straight win. The Tigers closed their campaign at 2-2.

WORLD CUP QUALIFIERS

RP trails Hong Kong by 1

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA—HONG Kong's David Freeman and James Stewart fired an eight-under 63 Wednesday to lead the Philippines by a stroke on the opening day of the World Cup qualifiers.

The top two pairings from the 14 nations competing at the Seri Selangor Golf Club on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur will qualify for December's World Golf Championships in Barbados.

After six straight pars, Stewart and Freeman combined for nine birds and a lone bogey in their last 12 holes of Wednesday's fourball, or best ball, format to seize the lead from the Philippines' Juvic Pagunsan and Gerald Rosales.

"It's my third time [to join the] qualifying for the World Cup but my first with Juvic," said Rosales, who contributed four of the seven birdies in the Philippines' round of 64. "He's got a lot of talent and he's striking it really good. Hopefully, it will be the third time lucky for me."

Malaysia's Iain Steel and Danny Chia share third with Mardan Mamat and Lam Chih Bing from Singapore on 65.

"My partner's putting was phenomenal," Freeman said after watching Stewart hole on seven of their nine birdies.

Stewart chipped in for birdie on the 13th, and nailed a 40-foot putt for another on the next hole.

Malaysia stayed in contention until the back nine, when two bogeys—on the 10th and 18th—left them two adrift of the Hong Kong pairing.

The Italians, meanwhile, had to play with borrowed clubs after their luggage failed to arrive on time. The pairing of Emanuele Canonica and Francesco Molinari are joint fifth with India on 68.

Thursday's format shifts to a foursomes, alternate shot scoring. *AP*

ROSALES: Hoping that the third time's a charm

PAGUNSAN: Striking the ball really well

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METRO MANILA: sm supercenter valenzuela • sm city manila • sm city san lazaro • sm cubao • sm city fairview • sm megamall • sm supercenter pasig • v-mall greenhills • sm makati • greenbelt 1 • marketl marketl sm mall of asia • sm city bicutan • festival mall • sm southmall las piñas • sm sucat LUZON: sm city clark • sm city sta. rosa • sm supercenter molino • sm city bacoor • sm city dasmariñas • sm city marilao sm city lucena • sm city batangas • sm city pampanga • sm city baguio VISAYAS: sm city cebu • sm city mandurriao iloilo • sm city delgado iloilo MINDANAO: sm city cagayan de oro • sm city davao

Schumacher debate on: Hero or heel?

LONDON—WHO does Tiger Woods pick as the world's best active athlete?

It's seven-time Formula One champion Michael Schumacher.

"For what he (Schumacher) has done year-in and year-out," Woods said Tuesday after arriving in London to play three straight tournaments in Britain and Ireland.

Woods' declaration gives rise to the latest debate in the F1 scene. Was Schumacher the good guy or the villain in the marquee racing circuit?

WOODS AFP

ALONSO AP

Renault's Fernando Alonso, locked in a bitter duel with the German great who is retiring at the end of the season, thinks Schumacher was racing's bad boy.

While plaudits rained down on the Ferrari ace, Alonso questioned the 37-year-old's win-at-all costs ethos and said the latter retired from the sport with a reputation worse than French football star Zinedine Zidane.

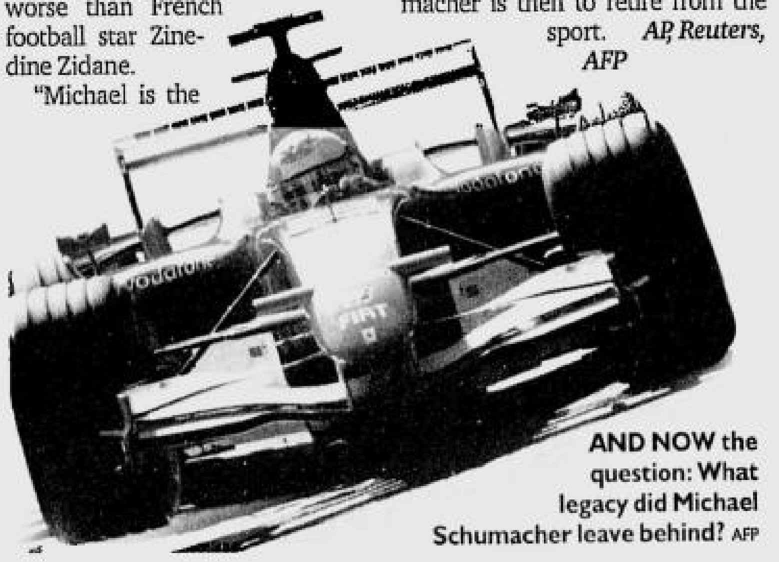
"Michael is the man with the most sanctions and is the most unsporting driver in the history of Formula One," Alonso declared. "Even Zidane retired with more glory than Schumacher."

The statement was in reference to the French football great's infamous headbutt and sending off against Italy in the World Cup final, his last game before retirement.

Schumacher's manager rushed to the German driver's defense, accusing Alonso of "pitiful behavior."

Bild newspaper quoted Willi Weber on Wednesday as saying that Alonso's comment to Spain's Radio Marca was an "unbelievable insult, totally below the belt."

The remarks will ensure an even more spirited end to the 2006 championship, with Alonso two points clear of Schumacher going into the final three races. Schumacher is then to retire from the sport. *AP, Reuters, AFP*


AND NOW the question: What legacy did Michael Schumacher leave behind? AFP

Favorites Barcelona and Chelsea score opening triumphs

LONDON—FC BARCELONA AND Chelsea picked up victories Tuesday on the opening day of the group stage in this season's Champions League.

Defending champion Barcelona routed Bulgarian team Levski Sofia 5-0 at Camp Nou stadium on first-half goals by Andres Iniesta and Ludovic Giuly, and three in the second half from Carles Puyol, Samuel Eto'o and Ronaldinho.

"We knew we couldn't relax because any team can beat you," Puyol said.

Chelsea, which has spent about 400 million pounds (U$750 million) in the last three years for players, beat Werder Bremen 2-0 on goals by Michael Essien and Michael Ballack. Ballack's penalty was his first goal for Chelsea since moving from Bayern Munich.

"I'm happy, but it was a difficult game for us," Ballack said. "Of course it was the first game, and nobody knows how we'd start.

"I knew Bremen was a very good team, and it was important we scored the first goal."

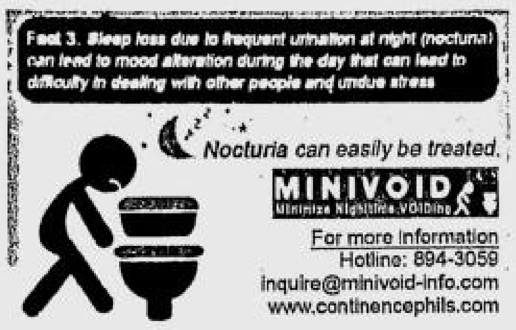
Ballack took the penalty instead of Frank Lampard, who has missed several key penalties in recent games.

"Before I spoke with Frank and he said you can take it," Ballack said.

Chelsea and Barcelona are both in Group A and will play in back-to-back games on Oct. 18 and 31.

"It was an important victory," Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho said. "It was the first game and it was against a team we know will contest every game and every point and can give a difficult time to Barcelona."

Also, it was: Bayern Munich 4, Spartak Moscow 0, and Sporting Lisbon 1, Inter Milan 0 in Group B; Galatasaray 0, Bordeaux 0, and PSV Eindhoven 0, Liverpool 0 in Group C; and Olympiakos 2, Valencia 4, and AS Roma 4, Shakhtar Donetsk 0 in Group D. *AP*



Fact 3. Sleep loss due to frequent urination at night (nocturia) can lead to mood alteration during the day that can lead to difficulty in dealing with other people and undue stress

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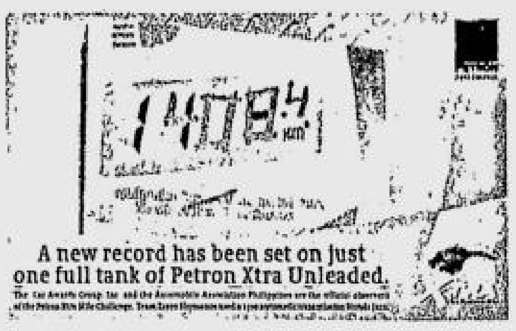
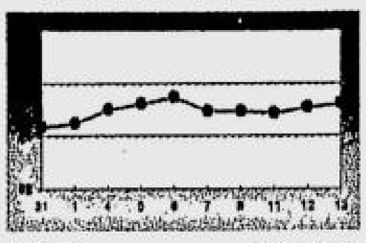


A new record has been set on just one full tank of Petron Xtra Unleaded.

BIR surpasses August collection target

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 50.38 = $

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 13, 2006

¥ 117.70 = $ 1

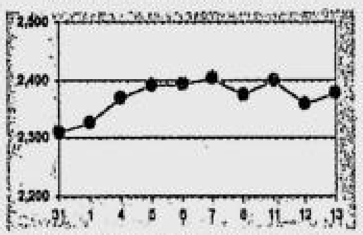
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 13, 2006

GOLD: $580.20-580.70

per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 13, 2006

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks close 0.75% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY closed 0.75 percent higher on a technical bounce sparked by overnight gains on Wall Street and lower oil prices, dealers said.

Investors, however, were generally reluctant to trade after the benchmark index was unable to hold onto recent gains above

STOCKS/ B5

Measures implemented to meet full-year goal of P675.4 billion

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE EXCEEDED ITS TAX COLLECTION goal for August, as it stepped up efforts to wipe out the huge shortfall posted in the first seven months of the year.

Preliminary government estimates showed that as of the last week of August, the BIR has already collected about P1 billion more than its target of P67.77 billion for the month.

The final tax revenue figure for August may even go higher than the estimates upon completion of the computation of all collections during the period, a revenue official said.

The BIR's tax collection performance in August was largely boosted by the P6.6 billion worth of withholding taxes on dividend payments and income taxes paid by power firm Mirant Philippines Corp.

A ranking revenue official, however, said it was not certain if the excess in that month's collection could wipe out the shortfall posted in the first seven months of the year amounting to P8 billion.

The BIR collected only P367.3 billion from January to July this year, short of the agency's seven-month target of P375.34 billion.

Revenue officials said though that the agency had implemented several measures to enhance tax collection efficiency and boost its chances of still hitting its full-year tax collection target of P675.4 billion.

One of the measures adopted by the BIR was the use of third-party information, such as clients of corporate taxpayers, to check the accuracy of declared incomes. Another is "tax mapping," where the BIR sends personnel to business establishments to check the level of their tax compliance.

Also, the BIR said it had adopted the "industry benchmarking" method of tax auditing, where the average incomes of companies in an industry were used as basis in determining the accuracy of income declarations made by corporate taxpayers.

Some revenue officials said the shortfalls were brought about not only by tax administration-related problems but also by the fact that the targets were too high.

This year's collection target of the BIR of P675.4 billion is about 27 percent higher than the P532 billion collected last year.

The BIR is trying to meet its tax collection goal for this year to recover from its underperformance last year. The BIR's tax collection of P532 billion last year was about 3 percent lower than the target of P547 billion.

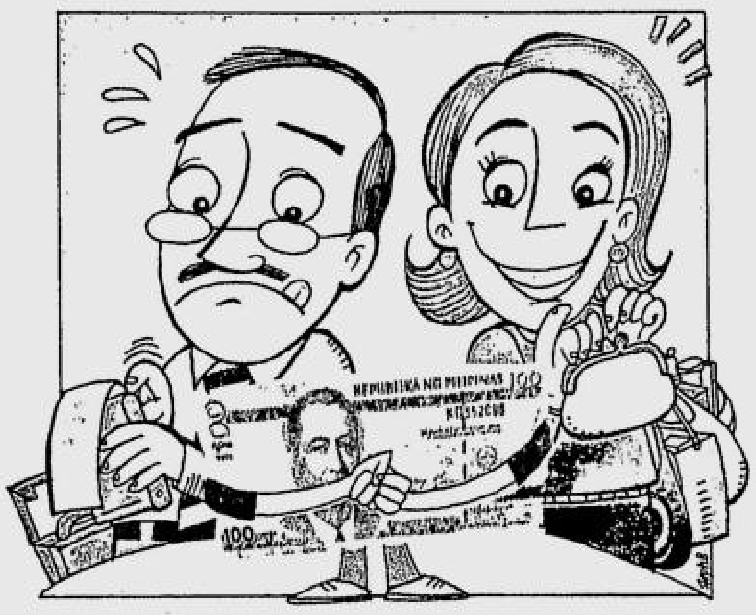
BIR/ B4

IN THIS ISSUE

Breaktime: Lame excuse me /B2

GMA credit program has BSP worried /B3

Oil bill hit $3.5B as of June /B8



Business, market split on economic prospects

By Daxim L. Lucas

IF THE RESULTS OF RECENT surveys are anything to go by, there is a persistent difference of opinions between the businesses and the consumers they serve about the Philippines' economic prospects.

On one hand, several surveys released in recent weeks consistently showed that consumer confidence was on the rise, with a growing number of people feeling more secure and more optimistic about the future.

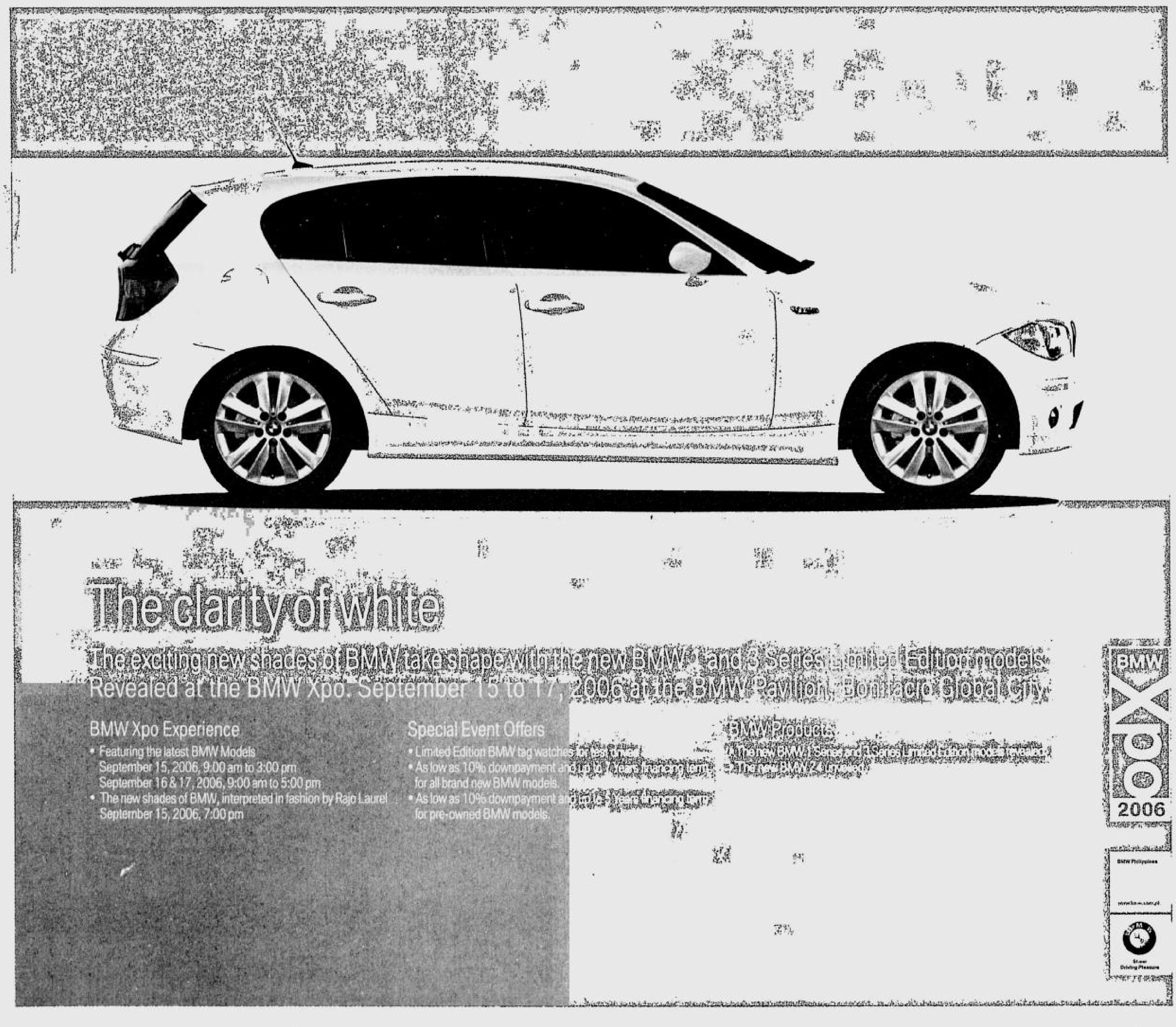
"Filipinos are now a little more comfortable about the big picture," said AC Nielsen (Phils.) Inc. managing director Benedicto L. Cid Jr. as he unveiled the company's latest consumer confidence results recently.

The survey revealed that Filipino consumers were worrying less about the economy and were, therefore, becoming bolder in their purchases.

"The economy is becoming less of a preoccupation for Filipinos than six months ago," Cid said. "In our case, [concern over the economy] doesn't seem to be as salient as with other countries."

On the other hand, however, the business community seems to share less of the enthusiasm that

BUSINESS/ B4



The clarity of white

The exciting new shades of BMW take shape with the new BMW 1 and 3 Series Limited Edition models. Revealed at the BMW Xpo. September 15 to 17, 2006 at the BMW Pavilion, Bonifacio Global City.

BMW Xpo Experience
- Featuring the latest BMW Models
  September 15, 2006, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
  September 16 & 17, 2006, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
- The new shades of BMW, interpreted in fashion by Rajo Laurel
  September 15, 2006, 7:00 pm

Special Event Offers
- Limited Edition BMW tag watches for test drives
- As low as 10% downpayment and up to [illegible] years financing term for all brand new BMW models.
- As low as 10% downpayment and up to [illegible] years financing term for pre-owned BMW models.

BMW Products
- The new BMW 1 Series and 3 Series Limited Edition models revealed
- The new BMW Z4 unveiled

BMW Xpo 2006

BMW Philippines

Sheer Driving Pleasure

Sales of pre-need firms up 17%

Pension plans drew the most buyers, with sales growing by 25%

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SALES OF PRE-NEED FIRMS continued to grow in July to P1.52 billion, up 17 percent from P1.3 billion during the same month last year.

The growth in sales was boosted by higher prices of plans and the decision to shift out of certain trust fund investments.

Industry sources said some investors may have sought refuge in alternative investments, which included pre-need plans, away from unit investment trust funds, or open-ended trust funds invested in government securities and shares of stock.

Some months ago, there were huge withdrawals of investments in UITFs over fears that about 10 to 15 percent of investments in these instruments could be erased due to falling bond rates and share prices.

Leading the sales uptick in July were pension plans which rose 25 percent in July to P973.15 million from P778 million in the same period last year.

Education plans rose 5.5 percent to P328 million, while life plans climbed 3.6 percent to P215.3 million.

For the first seven months however, pre-need sales slipped 16 percent to P11.2 billion, from P13.4 billion in the same period last year.

Life plans fell 40 percent to P1.5 billion during the January to July period from P2.6 billion in the same period last year.

Education plans also shrunk 38 percent to P2.5 billion during the first seven months, from P4 billion in the same period last year.

For the seven-month period, the number of plans sold dipped 37 percent to 129,199 from 204,667 in the same period last year.

Of this total, life plans fell 46 percent to 42,923 from 79,131 while education plans dropped 43 percent to 19,901 from 34,727.

In July alone, the number of plans declined 19 percent to 15,128 from 18, 759.

Pension plans accounted for the biggest drop at 6,461 plans, down 36 percent from 10,140.

Lame excuse me

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

WHO WILL OWN THE BLAME for the convenient excuse (something to do with environmental protection) to shut down the second busiest seaport in Luzon—the one at Poro Point in La Union?

It's been more than a month since the government sent heavily armed troops to take over the port, which was then managed by a private company called Bulk Handlers.

The raid led to that famous standstill of everything that was supposed to move at the busy port—men, machine, perhaps even mice.

.That commando-like operation was carried out by this cute administration of Gloriaetta on the basis of a DENR "cease and desist order."

And so, the multimillion-peso question is, who actually asked the DENR to issue the order in the first place?

BCDA president Narciso Abaya, the former AFP chief of staff, insists up to now that he had nothing to do with the DENR order.

He only admits that he had asked the Philippine Ports Authority to take over the port after the DENR already—and hurriedly—issued the order.

Felix S. Ricadio, president of Poro Point Management Corp., or PPMC, the BCDA subsidiary for the seaport operation, also denies that he had asked the DENR for the order.

Yet the "legal basis" of the whole darn commando-like operation, as I said, solely rested on that DENR order. And they all say that nobody asked for it?

The truth is, after the DENR got a written request from a certain "Atty. Felix S. Ricadio" to close down the port, the DENR issued the order in record time of two hours.

And so, excuse me, but who said that this cute administration is lame when it comes to doing something about the long delays suffered by business due to red tape?

Anyway, if the DENR was only protecting the environment—which led it to order the closure of the port—why did it take the DENR six long years to do so?

The DENR claimed that the Poro Point operator never secured a DENR environmental clearance from the beginning.

Yet the BCDA was all part of it from the start—as owner of the port and 30-percent stockholder of the joint venture company operating it.

Do we take it then that the BCDA never checks, whenever it goes into a joint venture, the company's compliance with government rules and regulations?

Up to now, the ex-general Abaya still adheres to the story that the government side in the joint venture found out only recently the lack of DENR clearance.

It's just that the supposed "late" discovery happened, rather conveniently, after the government side tried and failed to declare null and void the contract with the private operator.

Something must really be wrong in the decision-making of the BCDA. That's why the BCDA today is spending P6.5-million for its PR campaign.

* * *

Recent reports also said that the retired general also signed a P160-million contract all by himself, meaning, without approval of the BCDA board.

It was a supplemental contract for the P21-billion expressway between Subic and Clark, which are the former US bases now under the care of BCDA.

Apparently, Abaya forgot that he could not legally go into a contract worth more than P50 million without the approval of his board.

When the thing hit the fan, and while media feasted on it, Abaya immediately cancelled the contract.

As if to tell us that there was no damage done, he also revealed that the BCDA did not disburse a single centavo for the contract.

But who knows what could have happened with that P160 million in public funds, say, if media forgot to report on the "lapse" of the BCDA chief executive, particularly since the BCDA has that P6.5-million PR budget?

* * *

The same BCDA, by the way, had a major role in the grant to the International School of a long-term lease over a huge chunk of prime property at the Fort.

My info is that the International School, in which the annual tuition is about P1 million, rents the land for an amazing sum of P300 per square meter a year.

If my math is correct, that is about P25 per square meter a month. It is cheaper than any land rental in any squatter area in the metropolis.

* * *

It looks like the Bureau of Internal Revenue is dead serious in its so-called tax mapping, which is its house-to-house campaign to flush out tax cheats.

In the Manila district alone, based on its press statement, the BIR discovered more than 2,000 businesses with various tax violations.

Still, as penalty for all those violations, the BIR was able to collect less than P1 million, after spending endless man-hours.

Thus it seems the BIR is dead serious only when it comes to small fries. For, how come the BIR is still helpless in the case of our most favorite insurance playboy?

During the time of the man named Band ... Wrist Band, the BIR assessed one of the companies of the handsome devil and found that it had some P800 million in tax liabilities.

It seems that the case has been buried. Up to now, nobody in the BIR could say whether or not the company already settled its alleged tax liabilities.

Worse, the BIR records of the tax case are now missing. To think, the case involves P800 million!

I mean, how many small businesses in the country does the BIR have to catch with various tax violations, for it to raise such an amount?

If my math is correct, the BIR will need only some 16 million small business establishments.

Tanduay Holdings to acquire Unimark

TANDUAY HOLDINGS INC. OF tycoon Lucio Tan on Tuesday received the approval of its board to buy all the shares of asset managing firm Unimark Investments Corp. from undisclosed shareholders.

"The transaction is undertaken in the ordinary course of business of the company, consonant with its primary purpose as a holding company," Tanduay Holdings said in its disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Officials of Tanduay declined to reveal details of the deal.

Unimark Investments, led by former Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry president Robin Sy, earlier bought the nonperforming assets of Philippine Bank of Communications in 2004 for P2 to 3 billion.

Tan himself was a past president of the Filipino-Chinese federation.

Unimark's acquired assets—which consisted largely of foreclosed properties—were originally recorded in PBCom's books as to be worth P12 billion in 2004, sources said.

Industry sources said Tan got a good deal in buying idle pieces of property of Unimark at a steep discount, property which the tycoon can use to expand his liquor manufacturing plants under Tanduay.

With the boom in the property sector, Tan's asset acquisition is seen to appreciate in value over the coming years, sources said.

Cash from operating activities stood at P113 million as of June 30 this year.

Net sales for the first semester of 2006 amounted to P3.06 billion—a decrease of 17 percent from last year's P3.71 billion.

Consolidated net income in the first half amounted to P119 million, down by 74 percent from last year's P422 million.

The decrease in net sales and net income was mainly due to the 17 percent decline in sales volume, higher raw material costs and finance charges.

Despite the 5.14-percent growth in the agricultural sector in the first six months of 2006, sales volume still declined due to weaker consumer demand as a result of higher inflation due to the sharp rise in world crude oil prices during the period.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FLI secures ₱2.4-B deal with Israeli investors

PROPERTY DEVELOPER FILINvest Land Inc. (FLI) has entered into a P2.4-billion deal with Africa Israel Investments (Philippines) Inc., a subsidiary of one of Israel's largest investment firms, to jointly develop residential and leisure projects covering 613 hectares of its township project in San Mateo, Rizal, the company said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE).

FLI said it has agreed to jointly develop with Africa Israel the remaining phases of its Timberland Heights township project covering roughly 613 hectares.

Africa Israel, which will have a 40-percent stake in the development, will invest close to P380 million. It will also have the option to hike its investment by an additional P2.1 billion over the next five years which could bring total investments to P2.4 billion.

The first phase of the joint venture covers about 58 hectares and calls for the development of several projects including, "The Ranch," which offers luxury house and lot packages, and "Mandala East," which offers leisure farm lots.

The joint venture also includes the mountain resort's anchor project, the Timberland Sports and Nature Club spanning 12,500 square meters. The exclusive club will offer nature-oriented amenities, spa, dining, banquet and room facilities.

As part of the joint venture agreement, Africa Israel and FLI have agreed to consider pursuing the development of two medium-rise residential projects in two undisclosed sites in Metro Manila.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Tech, business gurus reach out

By Riza T. Olchondra

TECHNOLOGY EXPERTS AND business leaders will speak to an estimated 20,000 budding entrepreneurs, including *balikbayans*, during the two-day TechnoNegosyo forum and expo, which opens today at the World Trade Center on Roxas Boulevard.

The program, which links entrepreneurs with government representatives, financial agencies and industry experts, is spearheaded by Jose Concepcion III, RFM Corp. CEO and Presidential Consultant for Entrepreneurship.

Among the large companies represented at the expo were Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (MyDSL Biz), Smart Telecommunications (Smart Bro), Globe Telecom (G-Cash), Microsoft, Hewlett-Packard, BayanTel.

The Department of Science and Technology also extended its support to the event.

Ramon Lopez of the RFM group said there were 150 booths put up by a mix of schools, government institutions, banks, microfinance agencies, science and technology experts and venture capitalists.

The links to be forged among exhibitors and visitors were expected to spur the local IT industry and help IT-enabled businesses grow, creating more jobs and a larger knowledge base for the country.

During early promotions for the event, the organizers said Filipinos have so much talent, knowledge capabilities and passion for business but the applications and financial help available for putting up or growing businesses were not yet readily accessible to the public.

Those that were accessible were not well promoted among their target users.

Thus, representatives from the business sector, particularly those that can lend entrepreneurs some capital and technology, have agreed to share their resources.

The TechnoNegosyo is the latest in the series of events organized by the PCE and Concepcion's office to drum up interest in entrepreneurship.

Previous GoNegosyo campaigns featured micro and small enterprises, the latest franchise concepts and were geared for students, overseas Filipino workers and wives of members of the military.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 13, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	3,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	37	37.5	36.5	37.5	230,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	54.5	55.5	54	54	440,400
China Banking Corp.	690	690	690	690	10
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	19	19	19	19	1,900
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	400
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.4	610,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	75.5	76.5	75.5	76.5	144,200
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	39	39.5	39	39.5	135,900
Philippine National Bank	34	34	34	34	10,000
Phil. Savings Bank	42.5	42.5	42.5	42.5	5,000
Security Bank Corp.	51.5	51.5	51.5	51.5	210,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	45	45	45	45	1,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com Inc.	2.75	2.8	2.75	2.8	1,312,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1570	1580	1570	1580	1,790
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2000	2010	2000	2010	1,040
Ivantage Corp.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	1,010,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	47.5	47.5	47.5	47.5	338,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	46	46.5	45.5	46.5	849,900
Manila Electric Co. A	18	18.25	18	18.25	38,200
Manila Electric Co. B	29	29.5	29	29.5	1,076,500
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9	9	9	9	1,175,000
Petron Corp.	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.85	6,170,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	200,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.99	1	0.99	1	470,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3	3	3	3	120,000
CADP Group Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	6,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23	23	22.75	23	39,500
Jollibee Foods Corp.	33.5	33.5	33.5	33.5	289,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	303,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	70,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64.5	65	66,600
San Miguel Corp. B	71	71.5	70.5	71.5	88,500
Universal Robina Corp.	18	18	17.75	18	2,096,800
Vitarich Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	3,050,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	450,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.66	1.66	1.6	1.62	3,365,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.85	4.85	4.8	4.8	312,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	4	4	4	4	25,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	170,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	3.5	3.5	3.4	3.5	289,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	100,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	60,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	10,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.42	168,230,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.1	0.1	2,800,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	58,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	16,000,000
Ayala Corp.	445	455	445	455	76,230
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.51	0.53	0.51	0.53	420,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	4.95	4.9	4.9	47,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	6,800,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.94	1.96	293,000
APC Group Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.21	0.21	3,070,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	2.95	3.1	2.95	3	143,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.16	1.16	1.1	1.1	340,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	1,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.22	1.24	1.18	1.18	6,866,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.65	3.6	3.65	494,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.9	1,641,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.8	5.8	1,077,000
Medco Holdings	0.21	0.21	0.205	0.21	750,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1,100,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1.34	1.34	0.98	0.99	6,925,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	39,500,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.17	0.17	600,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	170,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.125	970,000
SM Investments Corp.	229	229	225	227	7,150
South China Resources Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	160,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.04	1.04	65,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.1	0.1	0.09	0.09	8,500,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	350,000
Zeus Holdings Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	20,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	13.75	14	13.75	13.75	7,386,100
Belle Corp.	1.02	1.02	1	1	2,205,000
A. Brown Co. Inc.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	50,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.29	0.3	11,400,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.55	2.5	2.5	198,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,150,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	7,260,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.048	0.049	0.048	0.048	1,500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.36	1.38	3,066,000
Interport Res.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	15,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	15,000,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	20,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.24	0.245	0.24	0.245	1,040,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.43	0.43	500,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.86	1.86	1.84	1.86	77,195,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.5	724,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	240,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13.25	22,400
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	1,100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	8	8	7.9	8	3,190,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.55	0.55	1,990,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	1,900,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	16	16	16	16	40,900
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1	1	1	1	14,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	210,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1030	1035	1025	1025	34,180
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.2	4.25	4.2	4.25	2,668,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2020	2020	2005	2020	97,120
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	250,000
Ionics Inc.	2	2.02	1.96	1.96	163,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.048	0.048	3,500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.05	0.05	5,300,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	67,000
Philweb Corp.	0.027	0.028	0.027	0.028	1,500,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	3.15	3.2	3.15	3.2	446,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	15.5	16	15.5	15.75	391,700
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	60,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.32	1.4	1.32	1.4	6,144,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.94	1.96	4,583,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	123,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	230,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.45	0.46	0.44	0.45	1,900,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	19,000
Ipeople Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.85	188,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2	2	1.9	1.9	1,249,000
Paxys Inc.	10	10.25	10	10.25	557,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	34,000
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	4.3	4.3	4.1	4.1	510,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	4.4	4.4	4.1	4.15	388,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.011	0.012	0.0095	0.0095	1,171,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.1	8.1	8	8	939,000
Benguet Corp. A	9	9	8.8	8.8	32,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	4,590,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.23	0.235	0.225	0.23	8,520,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.018	0.018	0.017	0.017	390,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.019	285,400,000
Omico Corp.	0.0095	0.01	0.0095	0.01	571,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	3.2	3.25	3.15	3.2	2,648,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	3.3	3.3	3.15	3.15	9,025,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	20.25	21	20.25	20.75	87,900
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.43	0.44	0.43	0.44	600,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.57	700,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	80,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	6,700,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	53,700,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.04	1.04	0.98	0.99	1,986,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.02	1.04	1	1.02	1,036,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	9.8	9.8	9.6	9.6	74,000

CURRENCIES

September 13, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.787712	1.000000	50.5240
Japan	Yen	0.006680	0.008480	0.4284
United Kingdom	Pound	1.477511	1.875700	94.7679
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101256	0.128545	6.4946
Switzerland	Franc	0.630220	0.800064	40.4224
Canada	Dollar	0.703879	0.893575	45.1470
Singapore	Dollar	0.499532	0.634156	32.0401
Australia	Dollar	0.593156	0.753012	38.0452
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.089532	2.652661	134.0230
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.210039	0.266645	13.4720
Brunei	Dollar	0.497953	0.632151	31.9388
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000109	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.021051	0.026724	1.3502
UAE	Dirham	0.214472	0.272272	13.7563
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.269500	64.1402
Argentina	Peso	0.253896	0.322321	16.2849
Brazil	Real	0.363302	0.461212	23.3023
Denmark	Kroner	0.134051	0.170178	8.5981
India	Rupee	0.017046	0.021640	1.0933
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214460	0.272257	13.7555
Mexico	New Peso	0.071610	0.090909	4.5931
New Zealand	Dollar	0.506828	0.643418	32.5081
Norway	Kroner	0.120262	0.152672	7.7136
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013048	0.016565	0.8369
South Africa	Rand	0.107611	0.136612	6.9022
Korea	Won	0.000822	0.001043	0.0527
Sweden	Kroner	0.108050	0.137169	6.9303
Syria	Pound	0.015174	0.019264	0.9733
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023939	0.030391	1.5355
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000367	0.000466	0.0235

GMA credit program has BSP worried

Repeal of Estrada-era order may affect RP's fiscal gains

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS HAS VOICED ITS CONCERN over the puzzling repeal of an Estrada-era executive order that tightened all state-controlled credit programs in an effort to reduce the government's huge budget deficit at that time.

In a letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo dated Sept.8, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. noted that Malacañang's "unqualified" repeal of Executive Order No. 138 has rekindled fears that the government may once again "end up as primary source of financing for the poor."

Tetangco said that with the repeal, the country risks losing its "hard-won fiscal discipline that has dramatically improved international perception of the Philippines."

The BSP chief said the government could best preserve and enlarge its gains in microfinance lending by maintaining a policy environment that would encourage private financial institutions to invest in serving the bankable poor.

"The resources that the private sector can commit to this endeavor, once properly motivated, are likely to be much larger and more durable than what the government may be able to do," Tetangco said.

Last Aug. 8, the President issued an order nullifying EO 138, which took effect on Aug. 10, 1999.

The rationale for the repeal was not properly explained by Malacañang. Economists, business leaders and even former economic managers who had helped craft EO 138 criticized the move.

The groundwork for EO 138—which aimed to curb the growing number of inefficiently managed government-funded credit programs, wasting scarce government resources—was started during the Aquino administration, but it was signed only during the time of President Joseph Estrada.

"We are concerned that an inappropriately designed government program may end up compromising the viability of private investments and eventually lead to their disengagement," Tetangco said.

He then added that there was a need to "articulate in a comprehensive way the government's policy direction in this area to give proper guidance to the private sector, the donor community and other stakeholders."

Tetangco assured the President that the BSP would continue its efforts to promote the development of microenterprises within the banking sector.

Gov't help vital in revitalizing mining, says CMP

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE CHAMBER OF MINES OF THE PHILIPpines on Wednesday reaffirmed its partnership with the government in promoting the industry, following a day-long international forum that drew the interest of firms based in Africa.

CMP president Benjamin Philip G. Romualdez said in a statement the group shared the government's vision that mining activities should be done in accordance with best mining practices and in compliance with the country's mining laws.

Romualdez said that the CMP welcomed Environment Secretary Angelo T. Reyes' assurance that the government would remain steadfast in promoting environmentally sound mining in the country.

Romualdez was referring to Reyes' remarks during the forum dubbed "Indaba in the Philippine Mining Conference" that was held at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel last Sept. 12.

Investors from South Africa, Tanzania, Mali and other African nations attended the conference, which was held in the wake of the Investments in Africa Mining Conference or Indaba in Capetown, South Africa.

The investors are here on a a four-day visit to check out where mining investments can be made, and to meet the local mining players.

"With (Reyes' assurance), it is the Chamber's hope that the issuance of mining permits will henceforth be fast-tracked upon compliance of mining permit applicants with all the necessary requirements," Romualdez said.

"Streamlining of the bureaucracy is key in revitalizing the mineral sector as identified in the minerals action plan," he added.

Also, Romualdez said CMP believed that "mining done right can give the Philippine economy a much-needed boost, while providing the Filipino people tangible benefits through job generation and the trickle down effect of mining-related activities, like the construction of roads, schools and health centers at mining communities."

The official also said CMP welcomed the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' policy to farm out idle mining projects to those who have the capability and intent to make them operational.

He said such a policy would allow those with deep pockets to participate in the development of mineral resources.

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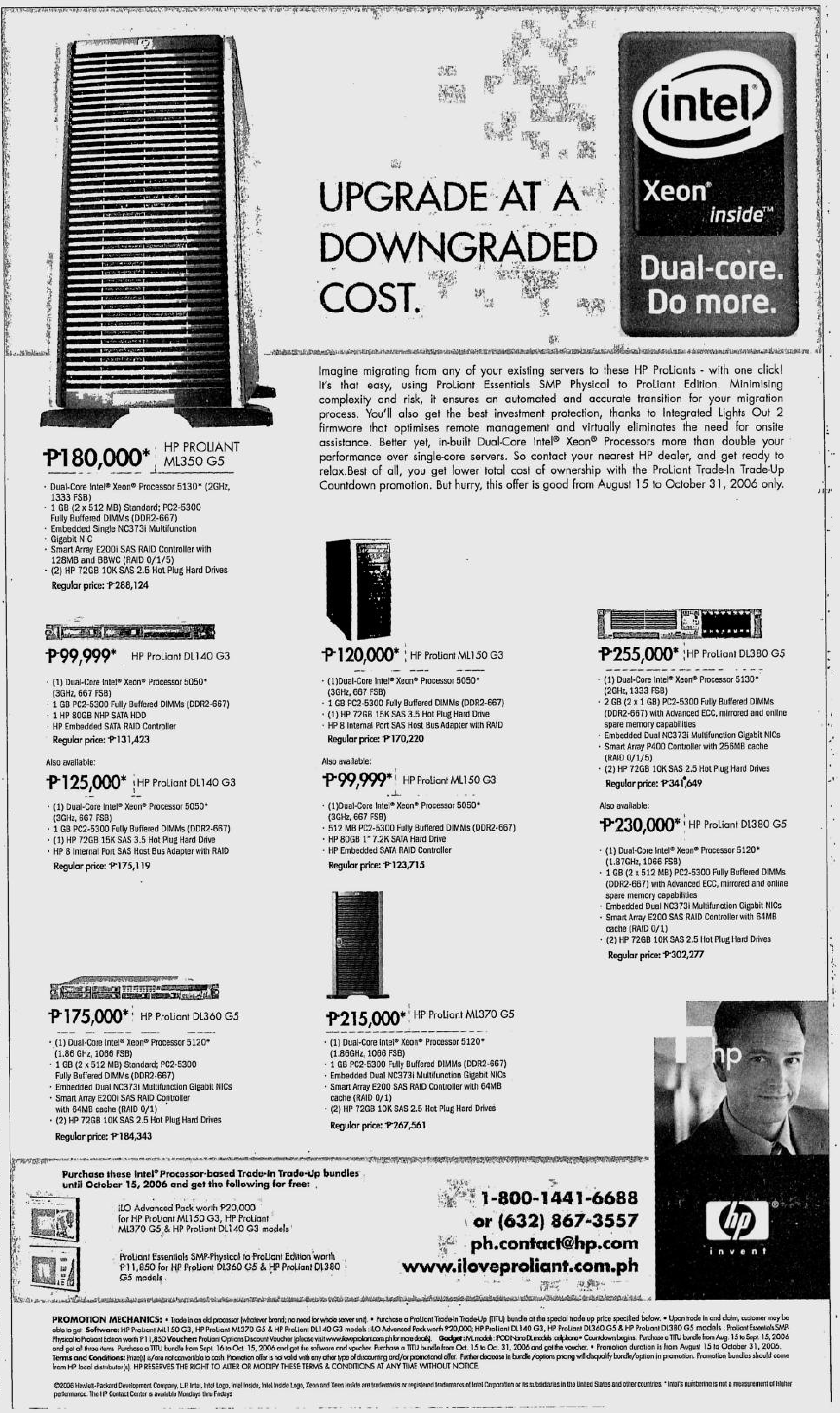

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DOF opposes tax perks for special savings accounts

Incentives seen to cost government P13.6B in foregone revenue a year

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE HAS REiterated its call against plans to grant tax incentives to individuals who will voluntary create their own pension savings accounts.

The department said such a move would result in annual government revenue loss of as much as P13.56 billion.

The planned granting of tax incentives to people who would have Personal Equity and Retirement Accounts (Pera) was contained in two bills pending in the House of Representatives.

"Legislating Pera, with the tax benefits attached to it, at this time does not seem to be in tune with the concerted effort to bring down the country's fiscal deficit and achieve a balanced budget in the medium term," the department said in a position paper.

Under the Pera bills, an individual may contribute a maximum of P50,000 a year to his or her pension savings account or Pera, to be managed by a financial institution. The contributions will be exempted from taxation.

The bills, likewise, state that the amount of annual contribution will be excluded from the computation of one's gross income, therefore reducing his or her income tax liabilities.

The proposal is among the legislative measures being supported by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The BSP said the measure would encourage savings and address the need for more financing to boost investments.

The pending bills hoped to help develop the country's lackluster capital market through increased savings.

Records showed that the savings rate in the country was among the lowest in the region.

Official data showed that aggregate savings in the Philippines stood at 23.5 percent of gross domestic product in 2002. This paled in comparison to Vietnam's 27 percent, Singapore's 52 percent, Taiwan's 26.6 percent, Malaysia's 46.1 percent and Thailand's 33.1 percent.

The DOF said that in principle, it supports the idea of encouraging individuals to have their own retirement accounts, aside from what they have with the Social Security System or the Government Service Insurance System.

However, it raised fears that the proposed Pera might not necessarily create additional savings. Instead, the department said it might only encourage individuals to transform their existing savings accounts into Pera to avail themselves of the tax perks.

"We expect that savings in existing instruments will simply move to the new instruments but no new savings will be generated. As such, the savings level will still be the same and the original objective of the proposal will not be attained," the DOF said in the position paper.

Also, the department said the provisions in the Pera bills allowing withdrawals earlier than retirement age were flawed as this would not serve the purpose of encouraging savings for retirement.

"The general rule is that savings in tax-privileged pension schemes are locked-in until retirement, and no "loan-backs" are allowed because these are found to be incompatible with having a tax-preferred vehicle of long-term savings for retirement," the DOF said.

The DOF said the better way to encourage savings and develop the capital market was to rationalize the income tax system for financial services by making the tax burden equitable.

Working with the urban poor

MINDANAWORLD

Joji Ilagan-Bian

COUNTLESS PEOPLE WERE RESPONsible for the coming into being of the Technical Assistance Center for Development of Rural and Urban Poor (Tacdrup), a nongovernment organization in a position of leadership and at the fulcrum of several major advocacy efforts—including those on political restructuring, organic or nature farming, and environmental protection—all within the context of sustainable development.

Starting as a small Davao-based NGO that committed to assist socioeconomic programs to improve the quality of life of the poor, the organization has transformed itself into a respected entity known for its efforts in institution and network building, advocacy on political and institutional reform, and promotion of sustainable agriculture and organic farming.

My personal involvement in Tacdrup started when I was invited to sit in their board two years ago because it needed an entrepreneurial person to provide more market opportunities for the products of their livelihood projects and programs.

Nature farming

Tacdrup, under its Sustainable Integrated Area Development program, is engaged in organic crops and livestock production. It is also into activities that seek to develop market niche and educate consumers on the benefits of organic foods.

The use of its nature farming technology system ensures productivity, profitability and efficiency with minimum labor requirement through the maximization of naturally and locally available materials.

The system is now being used by more than 5,000 farmer beneficiaries in Davao City, Davao del Sur and North Cotabato since 2002. In Davao City, the program operates along the eastern slopes of Mt. Apo, which is geographically shared by Davao City and Davao del Sur and bounded by the Talomo-Lipadas-Sibulan river systems. In Davao del Sur, the scope is within the southern slopes of Mt. Apo, home of the Bagobo tribe, while the other side is within the Mt. Matutum range, home to B'laan tribe.

Tacdrup also assisted in the establishment of Muscovado Sugar Processing Plant in Kibao, Davao del Sur in 2002. Muscovado sugar is an all-natural sugar (unprocessed) that is rich in vitamins and minerals. The plant provides mills about 400 kilos/day or eight tons of sugar a month.

The project has helped many sugarcane farmers rise from poverty and lead them to freedom from indebtedness mainly through savings on fertilizer cost. Since using organic fertilizers, the sugarcanes are now able to withstand strong winds. The quality of the soil also improved resulting in sweeter quality of the sugar.

The North Cotabato Siad Program is situated in the Liguasan Marsh basin of greater Cotabato. The marsh itself is the main food protein resource area of the local inhabitants, particularly the Maguindanaon Muslims. Its surroundings are considered the rice bowl of the country.

Farmers under the nature farming system use organic fertilizers and pesticides. A 2.3-hectare farm yields an average of 70-80 sacks of rice using the system, but farmers earn more because they no longer spend on chemical fertilizers.

The system has opened many opportunities for small farmers to change their economic situation. Their harvest has been steady and the cost of inputs has dropped. The environment is also being protected because of the use of organic inputs.

Interestingly, this technology is also being used in hog raising and has resulted in less water requirements.

Another plus factor is that the hogs have leaner meat and that they meet international standards. Hog raisers use only 30 percent grass and edible kitchen waste as feed components, and the bedding can be used as premium-grade organic fertilizer.

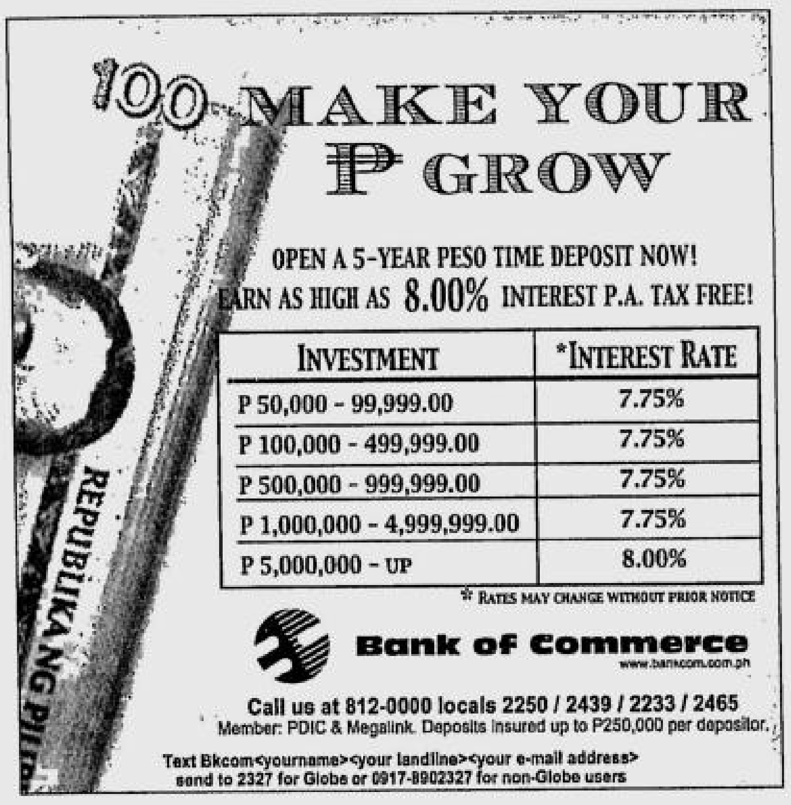
In North Cotabato, Maguindanaon Muslims raise goats using the system, while Christians raise hogs. The program has proved that Muslim and Christians can co-exist peacefully and become more progressive and economically stable despite their cultural differences.

What is more important is that Tacdrup helps sell the products of the farmers and livestock raisers through its marketing arm, Mindanao Agri-Network Corp., which distributes all of these organic produce—the brown rice, well-milled rice, muscovado sugar, fruits and vegetables, eggs and meat. These products are now available in major malls and stores around Davao City and its neighboring towns and municipalities.

The farmers are just too willing to plant more and increase their yield and Tacdrup is now aggressively looking for new markets outside Mindanao. The strategy is to find viable distribution channels for these products in Manila and Cebu, where the food requirements of the "wellness and health conscious" sector is growing everyday.

We are hoping that one day soon, we will find these Mindanao organic food products in grocery shelves, health stores, spa and wellness centers, gourmet restaurants, and organic and specialty shops all over the country.

(Joji Ilagan Bian is chair of Mindanaworld Foundation Inc. Email comments to jojibian2@yahoo.com)



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BIR . . .

From page B1

The BIR is the government's main source of revenue, accounting for about 60 percent of the total. For this reason, the BIR's performance has a big impact on the government's ability to meet its fiscal targets.

For this year, the government aims at reducing its budget deficit to P125 billion from last year's P146.8 billion.

The government is so far on track to meet its deficit-reduction target for the year despite the BIR's tax collection shortfall as of July.

USTH eyes medical tourism market

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS Hospital aims at cornering a substantial share of the $1.3-billion medical tourism business with its P350-million Benavides Cancer Institute (BCI), the first of its kind in the country, which opened recently.

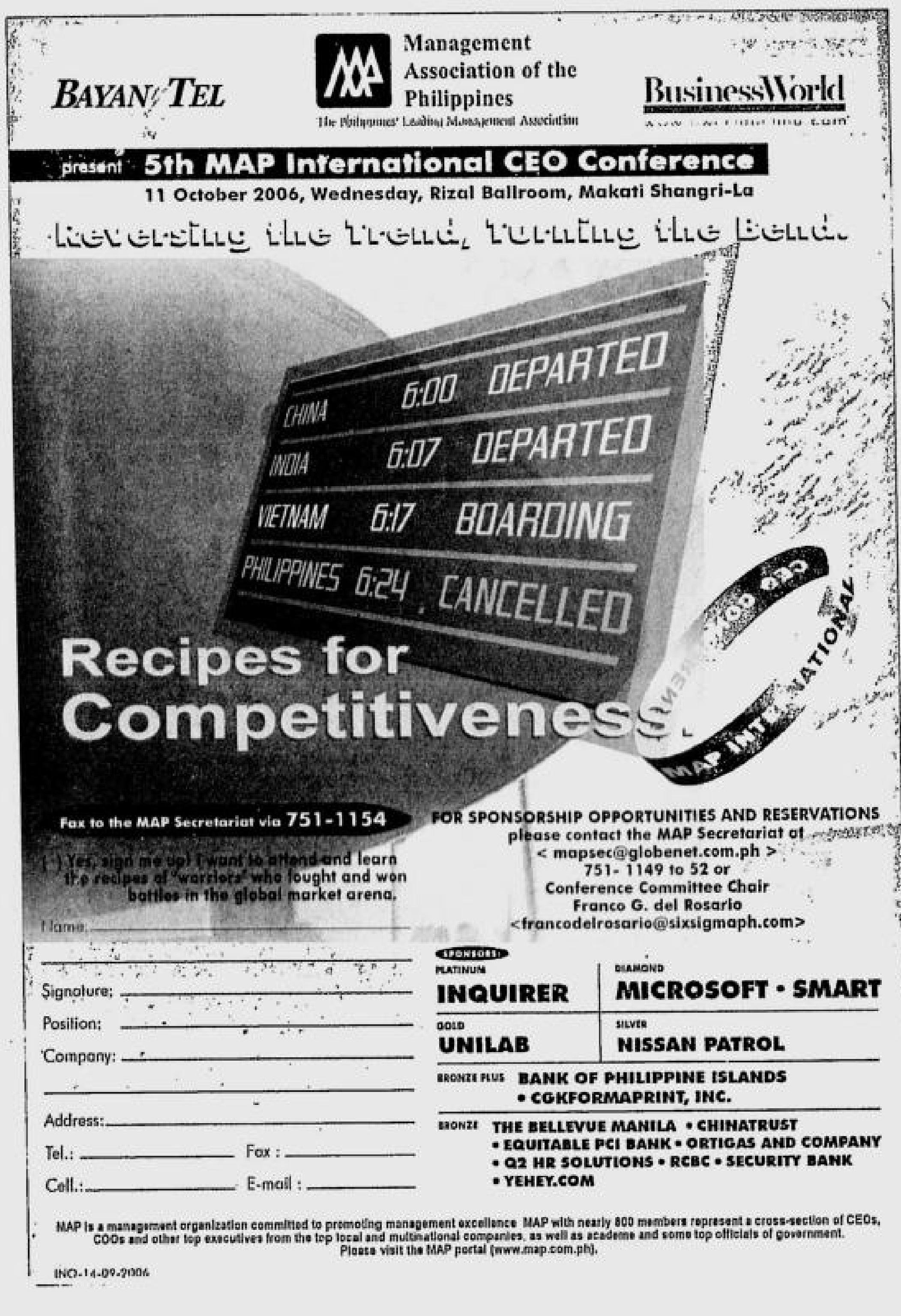
"The healthcare market is there. Up to 70 percent of healthcare buyers in the Middle East, Europe and the United States are looking for cancer treatment. And these buyers are looking for countries in Asia where they can bring their patients," said Dr. Cenon R. Alfonso, USTH president and CEO.

Alfonso said the market potential was estimated at $1.3 billion, representing the annual medical travel budget of some 80 healthcare buyers that USTH encountered during the first world health congress held in Weisbaden, Germany, last May.

Alfonso said that Middle Eastern countries were spending some $700 million per year for medical travel. Saudi Arabia, alone, presents a market potential worth $255 million, representing the medical travel budget for defense and diplomatic officials, as well as those for Saudi Aramco. Others in this region are the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Dubai, Bahrain, Egypt, Syria, Oman, Qatar, Turkey and Iran.

Countries in Eastern Europe are also on USTH's list of medical tourism prospects. According to Alfonso, the medical travel budgets of Eastern European healthcare buyers run up to $400 million. He said Russia and Latvia are the top prospects in this bloc, with medical travel budgets of $115 million and $100 million, respectively.

African and other Asian countries are also actively seeking cheaper alternatives for their patients. With the formal opening of BCI last Aug. 21, USTH is well positioned to cater to the needs of these healthcare buyers.



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INQ-14-09-2006

Business, market split on economic prospects

From page B1

has infected the country's consumer base.

A survey released by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) earlier this month revealed that businessmen were "less optimistic" about the current quarter.

"The lower level of optimism among businessmen was due to the continuing rise in oil prices arising from the conflict in the Middle East and higher labor costs due to the implementation of wage increases in both public and private sectors at the time the survey was conducted," BSP Deputy Governor Diwa C. Guinigundo said, explaining the results.

Chronic optimists, pessimists

How could two closely intertwined sectors simultaneously view the same subject—in this case, the country's economic prospects—so differently?

More importantly, which group has been consistently proven to be correct over time?

A look back at past central bank surveys, as well as those conducted by other institutions, reveals that the views of consumers and businessmen often diverge when quizzed about prospects.

People familiar with the mindset of both groups believe that—barring extreme situations—optimism is a natural trait of the consumer sector, while pessimism is inherent in businessmen.

"By nature, businessmen have to be on the safe side of things," said Rex Drilon II, who is the president and CEO of property developer and manager Ortigas & Co.

As the head of the firm that runs the Ortigas business district and the Greenhills shopping center, Drilon has a unique perspective on how members of both sectors think.

He believes that businessmen are "paid to get worried," especially in the present environment where competition comes not only from within but also from the outside or overseas players who are larger and, more often, more efficient. This mindset of looking for the next threat explains, in part, why business surveys always reveal more muted answers than those of individual consumers.

"As a responsible CEO, the more [a businessman] is optimistic, the more he becomes suspect," Drilon said.

At the same time, he explained that the businessmen's chronic pessimism was fed, in part, by the constant need to report and justify their actions to higher interests, whether they are shareholders or government regulators.

Changing preferences

At the other end of the spectrum, the Ortigas & Co. chief looks askance at data showing increasing consumer confidence, but suggests that may be due to consumers' changing buying preferences.

"Consumers are changing their spending habits," he said, noting the rise of spending in technology-related products and services. "Maybe they're optimistic about other things nowadays."

The diverging results of business and consumer confidence surveys do not make them useless or the source of confusion as long as they are interpreted properly, according to Makati Business Club executive director Guillermo Luz.

"Conflicting data is not less valuable," he said, explaining that both businessmen and consumers look at different sets of data to guide them in their economic decisions.

Like Drilon, however, Luz raises an eyebrow at survey results showing increased consumer confidence.

"We feel that consumers are still very pessimistic," he said. "While they are hopeful about the future, it seems that many are still holding back on spending."

Luz, whose group represents the country's largest business conglomerates, also said that pessimism in the business sector is felt more acutely in smaller firms which have limited markets compared to large firms which are better able to withstand difficult times.

Consumer power 'misspent'

For the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), the pessimism in the business sector is even more real. The group even suggests that higher consumer confidence is affecting local businesses in a negative way.

In an interview, PCCI president Donald Dee gave a compelling explanation as to why businessmen and consumers see the same issue differently.

"People have the buying power, but they're spending it all on imported goods," he said.

He pointed out that much of the $10.7 billion sent home by overseas Filipino workers yearly were leaving the country again as local beneficiaries spend them on consumer goods bought from abroad.

"If you look at the *tiangges*, all the garments they sell there are from China or Bangkok," Dee said. "That's why local businessmen are pessimistic. The optimistic consumers are using their purchasing power on all the wrong things."

Until either the businessmen adapt or the consumers change, both groups will continue to work on different pages of the same book, the PCCI official said.

Go after IPR violators, foreign experts tell RP

Protection seen growing 'new' economy

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FOREIGN EXPERTS ON WEDNESDAY urged local authorities to press the prosecution of cases involving intellectual property rights violations.

Mihaly Ficsor, former assistant director general of the World Intellectual Property Organization, said stronger enforcement of IP rights through prosecution of cases was needed to create a strong 'knowledge' economy.

"In my country (Hungary), the core copyright industries account for some 4 percent of gross domestic product," Ficsor said. "If we include industries that indirectly benefit from copyright and trademark protection, that would be 7 percent of GDP."

He said the knowledge economy in Hungary—an upper middle income country—was more important than the power or food sector in terms of contribution to national income.

Chow Kit Boey, a senior fellow of the Singapore's IP Academy, said the contribution of IPR-dependent firms to the city-state's income was at 6 percent, or half of that in the United States.

In the Philippines, the estimate is placed at a range of between 5 percent and 10 percent, according to Intellectual Property Office Director General Adrian S. Cristobal Jr.

Cristobal said there was yet no definite study on this but official data show, for example, that software development registers about $268 million in sales a year; graphics design and animation, $40 million; semiconductors and electronics, $24 billion; garments, $3 billion; furniture, $381 million.

The experts are visiting the country to attend the two-day forum themed "Copyright in the Knowledge Economy: Challenges, Emerging Issues and Future Prospects."

The forum that will wrap up today at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel is a joint project of the Department of Trade and Industry and the US Department of Commerce.

Paul W. Jones, charge d'affaires at the United States Embassy, said Washington was particularly interested in seeing prosecution of IP rights violations in the country, especially when it is still under a US watch list of countries where the incidence of infringements was relatively high.

Cristobal said the key to this was the IPO's partnership with the judiciary, which has agreed to take part in a training program involving at least 25 court people.

He said the program would start in October as part of efforts to set up special IP courts.

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Per DTI NCR Permit No. 3186 Series of 2006

Offshore banks' investments in bonds rise

By Doris C. Dumlao

OFFSHORE BANKING UNITS IN THE PHILIPPINES invested more in bonds and other securities as of June this year compared to last year, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported yesterday.

The BSP said there was a marked shift in the asset choice of the seven foreign banks with Philippine OBUs from loans and discounts to bonds and other securities, which now comprise the majority of their portfolio.

The sector's investments in bonds and other securities surged by 188.7 percent to $1.4 billion as of June.

This jacked up the share of investments in bonds to 59.4 percent of the OBUs' gross assets compared to only 37.5 percent a year ago.

On the other hand, loans and discounts were down 14.6 percent to $600 million during the same period, thus cutting the share in the portfolio to only 24.1 percent from 51.5 percent of total assets.

Unlike foreign banks with full branch licenses in the country, OBUs have limited banking functions.

While they are allowed to lend out, for instance, they cannot accept deposits from Philippine residents.

The seven OBUs are ABN-Amro Bank NV, American Express Bank Ltd., BNP Paribas, Credit Lyonnais, Societe Generale, Taiwan Cooperative Bank and JP Morgan Int'l Finance Ltd.

GOINGS-ON

Proposal writing seminar set

THE SECOND EDITION OF THE "PROPOSAL Writing Guidebook" published by Tritium Knowledge Center Publishing (TKCP) is now available.

TKCP is also the publisher of the resource book called "Directory of International Funding Organizations, Nonprofit Organizations, NGOs, Corporate Donors, and Relief Agencies."

To learn more about proposal writing and sourcing funding organizations, join the Winning Grant Proposal Writing Seminar today at Richville Hotel, 286 Edsa, Mandaluyong City from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Proposal writing best practices, tips, trends, techniques and samples of approved proposals will be discussed during the seminar.

Speakers are Dr. Ronald Meinardus, resident representative, Friedrich Naumann Foundation Philippines; Ma. Divina de Leon, social development manager; Pilipinas Shell Foundation Inc. and Tritium Knowledge Center Publishing.

For inquiries, call 531-0084; 0919-229-9777; 0919-229-9780; and 0915-780-4379. Email address: tritium@pldtdsl.net or tkcp_ph@yahoo.com

Stocks ...

From page B1

2,400 points.

The composite index rose 17.77 points to 2,379.43 after trading between 2,365.12 and 2,382.96. The broader all-shares index rose 8.15 points to 1,472.15.

Losers led gains 60 to 40, with 52 stocks unchanged. Turnover was 3.04 billion shares worth P1.06 billion.

He said a new catalyst would be needed to break through the 2,400 points barrier again.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone, the most actively traded stock, was up P20 at P2,020.

Food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp.'s A-shares were steady at P65 as its B-shares rose 50 centavos to P71.50. *AFP*

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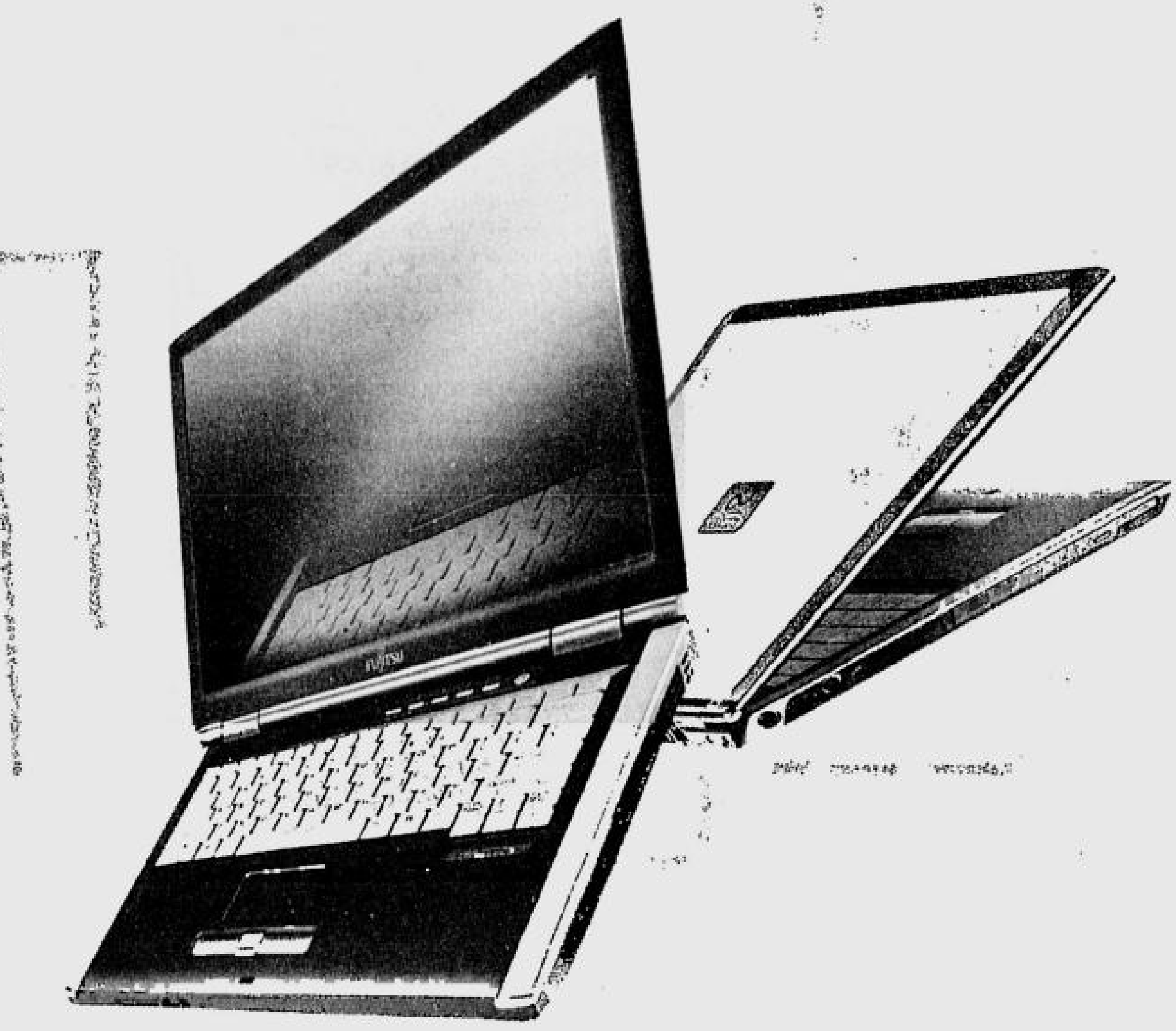

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NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
PRECIOUS ISLAND MARKETING CORP. 1097 B&C TLA Bldg., Corregidor cor. Molave St., Manuguit, Tondo Manila	Chui Shan Lin	Marketing Manager
E.Z. MINING ENTERPRISES, INC Rm. 508 Madrigal Bldg. 6793 Ayala Ave., Bel-Air Village Makati City	Houqing Zhou	General Manager
MAYBANK PHILIPPINES, INC. Legaspi Towers 300, 2600 Roxas Blvd. cor. P. Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila	Seet Joon Ong	President & C.E.O.
YJCONSTRUCTION CORPORATION Unit 309 Sir Thomas Square Bldg. Matalino St., Diliman, Quezon City	Yunbok Kim	Mechanical Engineer
YJCONSTRUCTION CORPORATION Unit 309 Sir Thomas Square Bldg. Diliman, Quezon City	Yunseok Seo	Project Manager
YJCONSTRUCTION CORPORATION Unit 309 Sir Thomas Square Bldg. Diliman, Quezon City	Yeonjong Choi	Mechanical Engineer
MR. JUNE HAIR SALON CORPORATION 1717 J. Bocobo St. Malate, Manila	Eun Seon Shin (w/o Park)	Operation Manager
KOMATSU ASIA AND PACIFIC PTE. LTD. Unit W-3301B, West Tower Philippine Stock Exchange Center Exchange Rd.,Ortigas, Pasig City	Takashi Matsumoto	Service Manager
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If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI–Sept. 13, 2006)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project/ Brief Description	9,000 liters – INTAGLIO PLATE CLEANER or 45 drums (Approx. 200 liters/drum)
Approved Budget for the Contract	US$75,000.00
Delivery Period	25 drums – December 18, 2006 20 drums – April 16, 2007

Prospective bidders should have undertaken similar contracts within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	**14 September – 28 September 2006**
2. Pre-bid Conference	**29 September 2006, 2:00 P.M.**
3. Opening of Bids	**17 October 2006, 2:00 P.M.**
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003.
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **P2,000.00** to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI–Sept. 14, 2006)

BILIRAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (BILECO)
Caraycaray, Naval, Biliran
Tel No. 500-9039 to Telefax No. 5009744

INVITATION TO BID

The Biliran Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BILECO) invites interested suppliers to bid for the supply and delivery of Poles and Crossarms, Conductor Wire, Various Line Hardware and Special Equipment for the upgrading of power distribution lines of the Electric Cooperative (EC) as follows:

LOT NO.	DESCRIPTION & QUANTITY	AGENCY ESTIMATE (Based on NEA 2006 Price Index)
1.	POLES AND CROSSARMS a) Pole, Wood Tanalized, CCA, Lawaan or Apitong (locally grown) 35' / Class 3, 13 pcs; 40' / Class 3, 15 pcs; 45' / Class 3, 72 pcs b) Crossarms, Wood, Tanalized, CCA, Lawaan or Apitong (locally grown) L-8', W-3.75", T-4.75" – 240 pcs.; L-10', W-3.75", T-4.75" – 20 pcs.	P 1,671,106.84
2.	CONDUCTOR WIRE, Bare, ACSR # 2/0, AWG, 6/1, 42,300 meters	P 1,403,514.00
3.	VARIOUS LINE HARDWARE	P 1,596,439.38
4.	SPECIAL EQUIPMENTS a. 1 set 3-Phase Load Logger/Distribution Profiler b. 1 unit 3-Phase Metering System c. 1 unit 3-Phase 15 KV Medium Voltage Disconnector d. 3 units Potential Transformer, 15 KV, Outdoor Type, 70:1 ratio e. 3 units Current Transformer, Outdoor Type, 100/75:5 ratio	P 1,195,000.00

Interested bidders are required to submit their letter of intent together with the latest copy of their company profile to the BILECO Bids and Awards Committee (BAC). Official bid forms for each lot will be made available to qualified bidders at a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00. A registration fee of P500.00 will be collected from participating bidders during the pre-bid conference.

The pre-bid conference is scheduled on September 27, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at the BILECO main office, Caraycaray, Naval, Biliran. Opening of official bid proposals will be conducted on same venue on September 28, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. All participating bidders are required to submit a bid bond amounting to 2.5% of their total bid price in cash, manager's check or demand draft. Delivery of materials shall be within 30 days after receipt of P.O.

BILECO BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid to annul the bidding process at any time prior to award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders or obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders with reason from doing so. BILECO BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify bids nor deem guarantee that the award will be made.

BILECO reserves the right to reject any or all bids duly received, waive any minor defect in the proposal, accept the offer that will be evaluated to be the most advantageous to the EC.

RODRIGO P. ROMERO, M.E.
BAC Chairman

Noted:

MARLON B. ROA
General Manager

(PDI–Sept. 13 & 14, 2006)

NOTICE

It has come to our attention that there are **IMITATION** of our PVC Door Brand & Logo's circulating in the market. These products using **INFERIOR MATERIALS**, thereby destroying the ultimate function of our company to manufacture & distribute superior products.

Let it be known that

PRETTY DOOR INDUSTRIAL SALES CO. PRETTY DOOR

A company organized and existing under Philippine Laws, with office address at 190 Gen. Luis St. Novaliches, Quezon City, has the **EXCLUSIVE RIGHT** throughout the Philippines to manufacture, use, sell PVC Doors with **PRETTY DOOR TRADEMARK & LOGOS** under IPO Certificate of Registration No. 4-2002-010360 and copyright no. G2003-253 (Lifetime) shown above.

WARNING

Is hereby given to any person found making, manufacturing, importing, selling, or distributing the same without proper authorization from **Pretty Door Industrial Sales Co.** All perpetrators shall be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law and held civilly liable for damages. All goods illegally manufactured and/or imported shall be seized and confiscated.

ATTY. REDEMBERTO R. VILLANUEVA
RRV Legal Consultancy Firm
38 Timog Ave., Quezon City, Phils.
Tel.: 02-411-2065, 02-419-97777

LEGAL COUNSEL for:
PRETTY DOOR INDUSTRIAL SALES CO.

(PDI – SEPTEMBER 14, 2005)

PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER
Department of Agriculture
ISO 9001: 2000 CERTIFIED

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Carabao Center, an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture, invites suppliers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

	Particulars	Approved Budget
I.	Artificial Insemination and Semen Processing Supplies	P 2,095,258.00
II.	Veterinary Supplies	1,127,977.50
III.	Laboratory and Chemical Supplies	816,327.35
	TOTAL	**P 4,039,562.85**

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 18-22, 2006
2. Pre-bid Conference (PCC Headquarters and Gene Pool)	October 2, 2006 (2:00 p.m.)
3. Opening of Bids (PCC Headquarters and Gene Pool)	October 16, 2006 (2:00 p.m.)
4. Bid Evaluation	October 17-20, 2006
5. Post-qualification	October 23-27, 2006
6. Notice of Award	10 calendar days

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of five hundred pesos (P500) to the Philippine Carabao Center Cashier.

The Philippine Carabao Center assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **EULOGIO M. MONTEALTO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – September 14, 2006)

CALL POEA 24-HOUR HOTLINES 722-1144 or 722-1155

BISLIG CITY WATER DISTRICT
John Bosco Avenue, Mangagoy, Bislig City
8311 Surigao del Sur
Tel # (086) 853-2032 (Philcom); Telefax (086) 628-2092 (PLDT)
Website: www.biswad.gov.ph Email: bcwd@philcom.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bislig City Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Project : FILTERING MACHINE FOR SAN ANTONIO WATER SOURCES
Location : Kauntuan Pumping Station, P #6, Tabon, Bislig City
Brief Description : Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Automatic Self-cleaning Pressure Filter Machine with a Capacity of 100 LPS including the provision of 6.0m x 7.0 Shed.
Approved Budget for the Contract : P 5,435,441.57
Contract Duration : 180 days
Project Reference No. : INFR – 02 - 06

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	September 14-27, 2006
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	September 28 - October 3, 2006
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements (Deadline)	October 4, 2006, 5:00 p.m.
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	October 5 - 10, 2006
5. Issuance of Bidding Documents	October 11 - 17, 2006
6. Pre-bid Conference	October 23, 2006, 2:00 p.m.
7. Receipt of Bidding Documents	Oct. 24-Nov. 6, 2006, 2:00 p.m.
8. Opening of Bids	November 6, 2006, 2:00 p.m.

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at Bislig City Water District Office, John Bosco Avenue, Mangagoy, Bislig City, Surigao del Sur, upon their submission of LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of P200.00 to the Bislig City Water District Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue bidding Documents only to the bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 to the Bislig City Water District Cashier.

The Bislig City Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **DR. ROLAND S. SARMIENTO, DM**
BAC Chairman

(PDI–Sept. 14 & 21, 2006)

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ANNOUNCEMENT

To All Qualified Voters NATIONWIDE

on-going registration

Per COMELEC Resolution Nos. 7463, 7469, 7498, and 7684 dated April 7, 2005; April 14, 2005; May 13, 2005 and June 27, 2006 respectively, the system of continuing registration has started and is on-going until December 31, 2006 to all qualified voters who have not yet registered or first time voter.

Registration is open from 8:00am-5:00pm, Monday-Friday in all municipalities & Sunday-Thursday in all cities nationwide, including three (3) municipalities in the NCR namely: San Juan, Navotas and Pateros at the Offices of the Election Officers in all cities and said municipalities.

IMPORTANT: Bring any valid identification card with photograph and signature.

A reminder from the
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Education and Information Department
☎Hotline Numbers
525-9296 • 525-9295 • 525-9335
525-9334 • 525-9302 • 525-9345
For more information please see your local election officer or visit our website:
www.comelec.gov.ph

NEW PAG-IBIG FUND OFFICE IN KALIBO
Pag-IBIG Fund President and Chief Executive Officer Atty. Romero S. Quimbo leads the inauguration of the Pag-IBIG Fund extension office in Kalibo, Aklan. Assisting Atty. Quimbo are: (L-R) pag-IBIG Fund Exec. Vice Pres. and Deputy CEO Jaime Fabiana, Aklan Provincial Administrator Atty. Diego Luces and pag-IBIG Fund Senior Vice Pres. for Operations Tessie Gonzales. The new office is the 2nd extension office of the Fund in Panay Island. With the growing number of members in the area, the Fund provides a more convenient office to its members in terms of accessibility and better servicing area. Overall, the Fund operates 35 branches and 16 extension offices nationwide.

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

HEAD OFFICE : 897-8808 loc. 514, 516; 899-4425; 897-2535; 897-8425 (Telefax)
CUBAO: 912-9008 to 11 (Aurora) MAKATI : 892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370
KALAW : 528-0213; 527-3342 MEGAMALL : 635-0219; 635-0220

Republic of the Philippines
Metro Roxas Water District
MRWD Bldg., Km. 1, Roxas City 5800, Philippines
Tel. #(036) 6210-737 / 6210-044 / 6215-474
Telefax # (036) 6216-083
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

No. 010-06

The **METRO ROXAS WATER DISTRICT (MRWD)**, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 1,610KVA GENERATING SET (BRAND NEW)
Location : NEW WATER TREATMENT PLANT SALOCON, PANITAN, CAPIZ
Brief Description : 1,610KVA GENERATING SET (BRAND NEW)
Approved Budget for The Contract : Php10,348,000.00
Source of Funding : PROJECT EQUITY BY ADMINISTRATION
Contract Duration : 60 CALENDAR DAYS
Delivery Period : 60 CALENDAR DAYS

The Eligibility Check / Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check, will be opened. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations A (IRR-A).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Advertisement	September 5-19, 2006
2. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 20-October 3, 2006
3. Pre-bid Conference	October 4, 2006 @ 2:00 pm
4. Pre-qualification conference	October 14, 2006 @ 2:00 pm
5. Deadline for Submission of Bids	October 14, 2006 @ 2:00 pm
6. Opening of Bids	October 14, 2006 @ 2:00 pm
7. Bid Evaluation	October 21, 2006
8. Post-qualification	October 26, 2006
9. Notice of Award	October 31, 2006

SPECIFICATION:
Capacity : 1,610KVA 1,288 Kilowatts
Speed : 1,800 RFM
Frequency : 60 Cycles
Voltage : 240-480 Volts
Power Factor : 0.8
(Note: Other specification is stated at the Purchase Request)

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php7,000 to the METRO ROXAS WATER DISTRICT. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The METRO ROXAS WATER DISTRICT assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) **GONZALO GLEN B. DELGADO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI-Sept. 7 & 14, 2006)

ERRATUM

In the **Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid** ads of **PRESIDENTIAL BROADCAST STAFF-RTVM** published on this paper dated September 11, 2006, the following details were inadvertently printed:

Name of Project: *"Integration Services and Supply of Labor, Rented Materials and equipment for the full turn key implementation of the International Media Center (IMC) and related support facilities including the design, engineering, cabling, installation and commissioning of the system of the 12th ASEAN Summit in Cebu City."*

Date of the Submission and Opening of Bids: September 25 instead of October 25.

Name of Project: *"Procurement of Various Broadcast Equipment"*

Item: 3 units 10 output Video Distribution Amplifier, autovolt should be **8 units 10 output Video Distribution Amplifier, autovolt**

BAC Chairman: Melba B. Aligaen instead of Imelda B. Aligaen.

Our apologies.

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Bohol
Municipality of Danao
Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP II)
IBRD Loan 7152-PH
Rehabilitation of 5.528 kms. Magtangtang-So. San Jose Tabok Road

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Loan 7152-PH

September 14, 2006

The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from The World Bank toward the cost of the Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDPII) and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the LGU counterpart funds, to payments under the contract for Rehabilitation of 5.528 kms. Magtangtang – So. San Jose Tabok Road under Contract Number RIRR 06-208-01 MAG-B. The Municipality of Danao Province of Bohol now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Rehabilitation of 5.528 kms. Magtangtang – So. San Jose Tabok Road located at Barangays Magtangtang and Tabok under Contract No. RIRR 06-208-01 MAG-B and is expected to be completed and delivered within 140 Calendar Days from the date of the official start of the subproject.

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Item No.	Description of Works	Quantity	Unit
12	Roadway and Drainage Excavation	8,213.00	Cu.M.
14	Embankment (from Excavated Mat'ls)	2,891.00	Cu.M.
20	Aggregate Sub-Base Course	3,312.00	Cu.M.
21	Aggregate Base Course	3,252.00	Cu.M.
31	PCCP (0.15m thk., 3,500 psi)	400.00	Sq.M.
42	Spillway Structure w/ 1,000 mm dia. RCPC	5.00	l.m.
50(3)	RCPC – 610mm dia. w/ Headwall	18.00	l.m.
51(2)	Grouted Riprap – Slope Protection	202.00	Cu.M.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Subject to exceptions stated in this Bidding Documents, only Bids from Bidders who pass an eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification. The Estimated Project Cost is Seven Million Seven Hundred Fifty Three Thousand One Hundred Eighty-Eight Pesos & 63/100 **(Php 7,753,188.63).**

The documents required in the Eligibility Documents shall be submitted as part of the Technical Documents of the Bidders as provided in the Instruction to Bidders.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the LGU-BAC of Danao, Bohol and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on September 14, 2006 to October 16, 2006,10:00 A.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 10,000.00. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before 10:00 A.M., October 16, 2006.

The LGU-BAC of Danao, Bohol will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on October 04, 2006 at 10:00 A.M at the following address Sanguniang Bayan Session Hall, Municipality of Danao, Province of Bohol.

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before 10:00 A.M. October 16, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of ***CASH, MANAGER'S CHECK, CASHIER'S CHECK AND BANK GUARANTEE*** and in an amount of PHP 116,300.00 or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be at 10:00 A.M. October 16, 2006 at the Sanguniang Bayan Session Hall, Municipality of Danao. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at the Sanguniang Bayan Session Hall, Municipality of Danao.

Minimum Equipment Required: Bulldozer (1 unit)-owned; Road Roller Vibratory Compactor (9 ton min. 1 unit)-owned; Road Grader (1 unit)-owned; Loader (1 unit)-owned; Dump truck (4 units)-owned; Backhoe (1 unit)-leased/owned; 1 Bagger Concrete Mixer (1 unit)-owned; Water Truck (1 unit) –owned; survey instruments-(leased/owned). (Other documents include valid PCAB license, valid and current Mayor' permit, BIR tax clearance and Dole Certification).

Completion of the Works is 140 Calendar Days from the official start of the subproject.

The LGU-BAC of Danao, Bohol reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

ARCDPII-LGU-BAC Municipality of Danao, Bohol.
MR. JOSE G. TORREGOSA
MPDO and ARCDPII-LGU-BAC Chairman
Municipality Of Danao
Province of Bohol
Telephone #

(Sgd.) MR. JOSE G. TORREGOSA
MPDO and ARCDPII-LGU-BAC CHAIRMAN

(PDI – September 14, 2006)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) SECRETARIAT OFFICE
Tel. No. (632) 455-2758 e-mail: vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS) and Servers

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)*, through its *2006 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P12,836,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *supply and delivery of uninterruptible power supplies (UPS) and servers as enumerated below.*

LOT	PARTICULARS	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
1	40 units servers	10,000,000.00
2	40 units UPS for servers	2,000,000.00
3	209 units UPS for Personal Computers	836,000.00
	TOTAL	12,836,000.00

Bids received in excess of the BAC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NFA* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *supply and delivery of uninterruptible power supplies (UPS) and servers.* Delivery is required within 45 days from receipt of Notice of Award. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **Instruction to Bidders (ITB).**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NFA-BAC SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P10,000.00 in the form of *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*, will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *October 2, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.*

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City* on October 17, 2006 from 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *October 17, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Conference Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NFA* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity — *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
Contact Person — *Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama*
Address — *Philsugin Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City*
Telephone / Fax No. — *(632) 455-2758*
e-mail address — *vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph*
Website — *www.nfa.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
For Administration and General Support Services

(PDI – September 7 & 14, 2006)

OBITUARIES

"Even when I walk through a dark valley, I feel no harm. For you are at my side, your rod and staff give me courage..."

Psalm 23:4

ANTONIO M. BUENAVENTURA

Managing Partner at Buenaventura, Gonzales & Associates

Died on September 11, 2006
at the age of 82.

His ashes lie in state at Sta. Maria della Strada Parish Church, Katipunan Avenue, Quezon City.

Viewing time from 2 P.M. to 12 MN

Daily Mass at 8 P.M.

Last Mass will be on Friday, September 15, 2006 at 6:00 p.m.

Manuel S. Pecson, Sr.

of Masbate, Masbate

Governor, Province of Masbate (1963-1967)
Regional Trial Court Judge, Masbate (1992-1997)
President, Integrated Bar of the Philippines, Masbate Chapter

passed away in the grace of the Lord at the age of 79.

His loving wife, **Pilaring Villaroman**, and children **Paz & Mac Corrales, Puput** and **Michael Brande, Boy, Marinette, Maripi & Rainier Butalid, Maryrose & Leo Nebres, Martin & Margie, Manolet & Sansan, Mateo**; grandchildren **Marc, Miko, Jaclyn, Shaina, Kayla, Bernice, Pamela, Raisa, Bianca, Enzo, Ethan, James, Moby, Chelsea**; great grandchild **Sophia**; brothers and sisters, request everyone to rejoice with us at his return to our Creator.

His remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Antonio, Capilla dela Virgen Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 16, 2006 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT
MESSAGE OF THANKS DEATH ANNIVERSARY
REQUIEMS FREE OBIT DESIGN

DELFIN ABERO-VALERA

of Makati City & Bangued Abra
November 26, 1941-September 9, 2006

Beloved husband and father. Has entered the Grace of his Creator
He is survived by his wife Merly

Children: **Renelyn & Marlon, Yeyek & Carol, Epang & Frederick, Ria** and grandchildren.

Siblings: Pete-Cora Verceles & kids; Totoy-Lourdes Valera & kids; Bjorn-Leonor Kristensen & Diday; Anita Larsen & kids; Buy Valera

His remains lie in state at their residence #2591 Bagong Diwa St., Poblacion, Makati City. Interment will be on the 16th of September at Makati Catholic Cemetery.

The faithful are requested to pray for the repose of his soul.

I have fought the good fight,
I have finished the race,
I have kept the faith

(2 Timothy 4)

"There is no other way to life and to true inner peace, than the way of the Cross"
(from The Imitation of Christ by Thomas A. Kempis)

Forever in our hearts...

In memoriam

Ruben Africa Maralit

First Death Anniversary : September 16, 2006

Holy Mass at Nuestra Señora de los Remedios Base View Homes Compound, Lipa City at 10:00 am. Similar services at the Cathedral & Carmelite Church at Lipa City.

Babang Luksa prayers and Commemorative Celebration of his life follow at 11:00 a.m. at his residence, Emily St., Base View Homes, Lipa City.

We design **OBITUARIES** for free.

Oil bill hit $3.5B as of June

Volumes down as demand softens

By Abigail L. Ho

DUE TO HIGH INTERNATIONAL PRICES, the volume of oil imports dropped 8.16 percent in the first half.

But the country's oil import bill soared 22 percent to $3.5 billion in the same period.

According to data from the Department of Energy, local consumption of petroleum products declined by 9.4 percent, from 56.8 million barrels in the first half of 2005 to 51.4 million barrels in the same period this year.

On a daily consumption basis, this means a drop in average daily consumption to 284,500 barrels in the first semester from 314,100 barrels a year ago.

Despite the drop in import volumes, the January-June oil import bill of $3.5 billion was still higher than the $2.9 billion recorded in the same period last year, due to sustained high prices.

In a statement issued yesterday, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said high fuel pump prices had prompted consumers to scrimp on oil use, leading to a drop in local demand.

Local consumption, he said, was expected to continue shrinking, with the accelerated promotion and development of alternative fuels such as coco-biodiesel and ethanol-blended gasoline.

Based on DOE records, the country's daily oil consumption peaked in 1997 at about 385,000 barrels a day.

This dropped to 329,000 barrels a day in 2000, eventually slowing to only 284,500 barrels a day in the first half.

Last year, net oil imports also declined by 9.7 percent.

Nomura, DBS bullish on RP

By Michelle V. Remo

FINANCIAL SERVICES PROVIDERS NOMURA Group and DBS Group have raised their economic growth forecast this year for the Philippines.

Nomura and DBS cited the unanticipated jump in the country's export earnings, increase in remittances from abroad, and the stronger-than-expected economic performance in the first half.

Nomura raised its gross domestic product growth projection to 5.1 percent from 4.6 percent, while DBS adjusted its forecast from 5.1 percent to 5.3 percent.

The forecasts, however, are still lower than the government's GDP growth target this year of 5.5 percent.

"The main factor behind our revision is that exports of electronic products are increasing, spurred by strong global demand for semiconductors," Nomura said in its quarterly assessment of Asia-Pacific economies.

"We are lifting our real GDP growth projection for the Philippines this year to 5.3 percent from 5.1 percent, after the economy performed better than we anticipated in the first half," DBS said on its latest paper on the Philippine economy.

The Philippines posted a GDP growth of 5.5 percent in the first half on the back of a double-digit rise in exports and recovery of the agriculture sector.

GDP, a common tool to measure an economy's performance, is the sum of the goods and services produced in an economy in a given period.

Merchandise exports for the first seven months of the year hit $26.692 billion, representing a 16.2-percent rise from export earnings recorded in the same period a year ago.

The double-digit rise in exports prompted economic officials to adjust the exports growth target to 10 percent, which they said was still a conservative figure.

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An abbreviated course on 'halal'

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

WHAT IS *HALAL*? I SEE IT ON RESTAURANT menus sometimes.

ARCHITECT CALOY

I have been wanting to do a *halal* story for the longest time. It is so interesting! However, the *halal* people don't like to talk to me, or at least the one Max Taljera recommended.

So until I get the whole story, I can only tell you what I have read. I promise to do a more comprehensive story on it when I have the facts. In the past three months, people have also been asking me for names of *halal* chefs who, by the way, are quite rare.

Here is what I know, which is really, not much. These facts are from "Eat Halal."

Halal, an Arabic word, means lawful or permitted. The Holy Koran says Allah commands Muslims and all of humankind to eat *halal* things.

Examples of *halal*: milk (from cows, sheep, camels and goats); honey; fish; plants that are not intoxicant; fresh or naturally frozen vegetables; fresh or dried fruits; legumes and nuts like peanuts, cashew nuts, hazel nuts, walnuts; grains such as wheat, rice, rye, barley, oat.

"Animals such as cows, sheep, goats, deer, moose, chickens, ducks, game birds, etc., are also *halal*, but they must be *zabihah* [slaughtered according to Islamic rites] in order to be suitable for consumption.

The procedure is as follows: the animal must be slaughtered by a Muslim... The animal should be put down on the ground [or held if it is small] and its throat should be slit with a very sharp knife to make sure that the three main blood vessels are cut. While cutting the throat of the animal [without severing it], the person must pronounce the name of Allah or recite a blessing which contains the name of Allah, such as '*Bismillah Allah-u-Akbar*.'"

The opposite of *halal* is *haram*, which means unlawful. The following items have been categorically identified as *haram* by jurists in accordance with the Holy Koran and the Sunnah of the Prophet Mohammad: pig, blood, carnivorous animals, almost all reptiles and insects, bodies of dead animals, *halal* animals that are not slaughtered according to Islamic law, wine, ethyl alcohol and spirits.

There are also food items considered *mashbooh*—doubtful or questionable. Further information is needed to classify them. Unknown origins make gelatin, enzymes, emulsifiers, etc., *mashbooh*.

When you see the sign that a restaurant is *halal*, make sure that you see an authentic *halal* certificate in the restaurant, if you are to follow the *halal* way of dining.

That's it, this is all I know! Hope it's helpful.

Can I have a recipe for spinach-artichoke dip?

ALI SOTTO

How can I say no to the Jeng-Jeng queen? I am your fan! Here it is, Ali. Sorry for the delaaaaaaaaaaaaay!

1½ c frozen spinach, blanched and squeezed dry
1 c artichoke hearts, squeezed dry and chopped
¼ c chives, chopped
2 tbsp parsley, chopped
¼ c green onions, chopped
¼ c leeks, chopped
1 ½ c sour cream (plus minus), adjust sour cream and mayonnaise according to desired

AN ABBREVIATED/ C2

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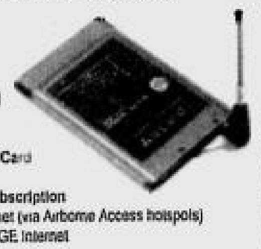


Nights of fine dining, days of cooking lessons

LOBSTER crème brûlée

By Michaela Fenix

VERY QUIETLY, THE Mandarin Oriental Manila has been holding a wine dinner every last Friday of the month for four years now. Held at the Tivoli, the hotel's signature restaurant, "Nights of Wine and Fine Dining" offers a seven-course meal paired with featured wines.

The wines, by the way, are unlimited or "bottomless," in the parlance of the fast-food scene.

The latest of this monthly feature was an opportunity, as well, to introduce the new *sous* chef, Stefan Trepp, who has been here for only a few months. It was also an occasion to introduce one of the wine masters of the Grant Burge Wineries of Australia, among the guests in the recent "Toast 2006," the annual wine-tasting event of Wine Depot, a wine distributor.

Craig Stanborough gave guests that evening an idea of where the Grant Burge Wineries are. Drawing what he hoped looked like Australia, he showed where the Barossa and Eden valleys were in the southern part of the country.

CHEF Stefan Trepp shows how to plate duck confit with vanilla thyme risotto.

Barossa is one of the most favored location for wineries. Stanborough said it was where vegetables were once planted by mostly German immigrants who settled there.

Prime location

He said, "Thank heavens the grapes won out." And now those valleys are prime places for growing vines.

The Eden Valley Riesling 2006 right away pointed to the German-immigrant history of the place. It was light and perfect for the *amuse bouche* served.

Trepp identified himself right away as a chef to watch out for with the very first course—pan-fried potato *terrine*, delicate layers of potato with smoked salmon roulade and keta caviar (salmon roe). It came on a teaspoon, beautiful to behold and a winner in both flavor and texture.

Another *amuse bouche* was served, a terrine where the delicate layers consisted of confit of chicken leg and *foie gras* served with a mango praline and a five-spice smoothie. Read the last word as a foam, the new way to present a sauce, much airier and, some say, much more concentrated in flavor. We were to have another foam later.

An Eden Valley and Adelaide Hills Chardonnay 2004 was tasted before the second course was brought in. It had the unmistakable aroma of oak. While some wineries make it a point to say their chardonnay is un-oaked, the Grand Burge has kept the oak. It was served with the lobster crème brûlée, a cool thick soup if you will. Trepp said he would have wanted it to be a bit thinner.

The cepe mushroom ravioli was served next with a Cameron Vale Cabernet Sauvignon 2003, a very light red.

Palate cleanser was an interesting carrot ginger sorbet. We all looked at each other as we were reminded of *salabat*.

Trepp served a roast venison loin medallion with a foam of creamed parsnips, green pea and sage, every ingredient contributing to the total taste and yet keeping the flavors separate. The wine was The Holy Trinity, Grenache Shiraz Murvedre 2001.

Shiraz is so identified with Australia. The trinity bit really refers to the three grape varieties combined to make the wine. How holy depends on the drinker.

Into our sixth course of crispy fried goat cheese with a salsa of tomato and basil, my favored red wine was served. It was Filsell Shiraz 2003. I have expensive tastes because this is an expensive shiraz from Grant Burge.

A warm chocolate fondant capped the dinner. The fondant was served with a white chocolate ice cream and a powdered chocolate facsimile of the Mandarin Oriental logo. A fitting, filling end until the cooking lessons conducted by Chef Trepp a few days after.

Three recipes in two hours

The lessons took less than two hours and yet the chef went through three recipes, all with Asian influence. He is Swiss and this is his first job in Asia. He says his knowledge of the spices and way of cooking comes from his chef and other co-workers in his two previous work places, California and the Burj al Arab in Dubai.

Like most good chefs, he made the cooking lessons seem easy. The salmon *ceviche* is his take on the *kinilaw*, only this time, the fillet is marinated for at least four hours in a coconut milk mix full of flavors from chili, coriander, lemon grass, lime and ginger juice. He served it with a mango salsa.

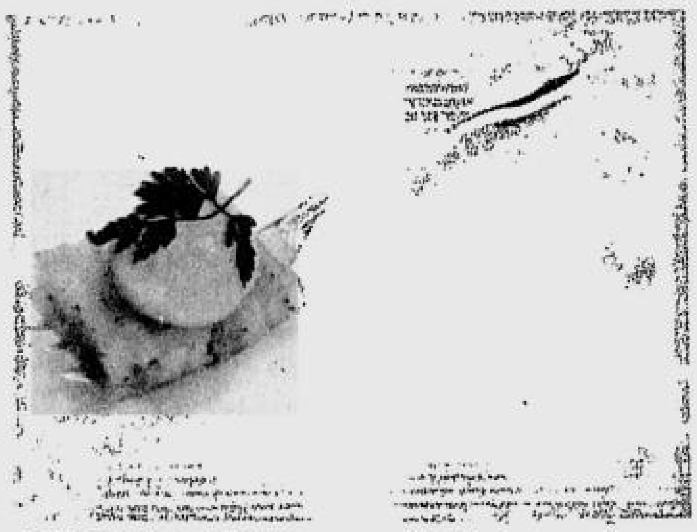
Main course was a confit of duck with a vanilla-thyme risotto. His technique included toasting the duck skin with a blow torch, simmering the duck covered with fat and many herbs and spices. His presentation had the confit on a bed of risotto and served with a ginger-glazed green *pechay*.

Finally, he cooked a jasmine crème brûlée with a lotus paste ice cream. The crème brûlée was cooked on a *bain-marie*, the way we cook our *leche flan*.

But his best cooking tip was how to tell if the ice cream mixture had the right consistency. He dipped a wooden spoon into the mixture then took it out and blew into it. The he showed us a form shaped like a rose. When that appears then the next step is the ice cream machine.

We did get to eat what we prepared that day, complemented by wines that head waitress Gail Gonzales annotated. So, for our *ceviche*, we had a *pinot gris*, Spy Valley 2004 from New Zealand. For the confit it was a light Beaujolais Cruise, St. Leger, Burgundy 2001. And our dessert was served with a Riesling, Late Harvest Columbia Crest, USA 1998.

Expect cooking classes on Oct. 21 featuring the Tivoli's bestsellers and on Nov. 18, Christmas dishes. The cooking classes are inclusive of lunch and offered at P1,700+.



DELICATE layers of salmon, roe and potatoes

A monthly event at Mandarin is a 'class' in good food and wine pairing

Singapore food festival

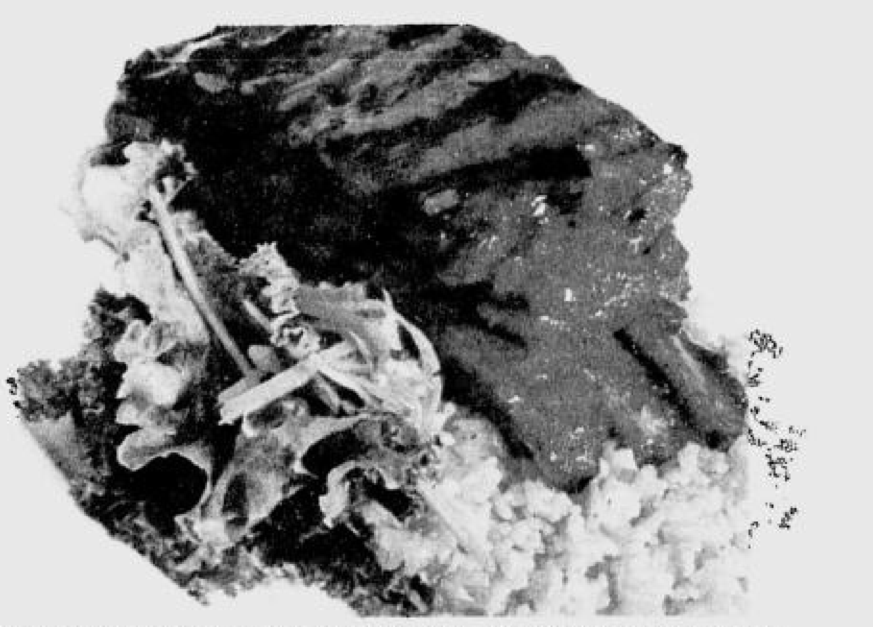
SEAFOOD Club Restaurant at Greenbelt 3 and Uni Orient Travel Inc. present "Viva Singapura" promo until Oct. 30. By having the buffet, diners get a chance to win two round-trip tickets to Singapore. Buffet is served 11 a.m.-2 p.m., and 6-8:30 p.m. Raffle draw is on Nov. 4. Call 7574129 or 7574716.

RICHMONDE Grill's international lunch buffet featuring Chinese and Japanese cuisine runs until Sept. 24. The buffet, at P585+ per person, is served 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. daily. Call 6387777 local 3409 or 6898419 and 6898442.

DINING OUT

MANILA Pavilion Hotel presents "The Best of Salmon" this September. Dishes include Smoked Salmon, Marinated Salmon, Gratinated Salmon, Fried Salmon, Steamed Salmon and Grilled Salmon. Lunch is 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. and dinner, 6:30-10:30 p.m. Call 5261212 local 2505.

UNA MAS will be offering every day an al fresco breakfast buffet at the poolside of The Malayan Plaza, the newest hotel, in Ortigas Center. Buffet breakfast, served 6-10 a.m., will cost P375 net per person. Call 7060055, fax 6352969, or visit www.quantumsuites.com.



HEAVEN 'N Eggs offers all-time favorite Manila Spareribs and US Top Blade Steak with eggs, US Rib Fingers with eggs, Country-fried steak, Grilled Pork Chops, Tuna Steak and more. Different kinds of pancake are also available. Heaven 'N Eggs branches are at CKB Bldg., Tomas Morato, QC; G/F Glorietta 4; Fuente Circle, Eastwood City; and Fiesta Market! Market! Call 3762674 or 8182792.

DIAMOND Hotel's Yurakuen Japenese Restaurant offers the Nagatsuki set this September, for only P1,100+. The complete Japanese meal includes appetizer, side dish of tofu steak, three main dishes, paired with Yurakuen's Seafood Fried Rice, as well as miso soup and green tea ice cream. Also available are fried Japanese oyster for P450+ and fried vegetables for P380+. Call 5283000.

HULA-HULA Seafood and Barbecue House (Westgate, Filinvest City) offers Grilled Prawns. Also on the menu, among others, are Island Sushi selections, Island Curry Plates and Island cocktails. Call 7712291/2289.

BLACKBEARD'S Seafood Island Restaurant (at Fiesta Market! Market!, Fort Bonifacio Global City; and Shopwise Arcade, Araneta Center, Cubao) offers Oysters Marinara and Pesto Keso Oysters. The restaurant also has Boodle Feasts meals that come complete with rice and grilled seafood selection. Dapitan's Pride includes Crispy Coco Gin Shrimps, San Mig Clams, Grilled Tilapia, Squid, Laing, Steamed Crab, Grilled Liempo, and Kalkag rice. Also on the menu are Magellan's Landing, Boracay's Feast, Manila Bay Boodle, Bento and All-Crab Boodle, among others. Call 9135701 or 8867692.

An abbreviated course on 'halal'

From page C1

creaminess of dip

1 tsp garlic, pounded to a paste, optional

1/3 chopped onion

½ c mayonnaise, preferably home-made (don't use sandwich spread or the sweetish kind)

1/3 c parmesan cheese

2 tsp onion powder

2 tsp garlic powder

1 tsp Worcestershire sauce, optional

Onion and garlic salt, to taste

Pepper, to taste

Combine ingredients. Mix well. Season to taste with salt, pepper and onion or garlic powder. Make dip at least one hour before serving. Serve cold. For presentation, you may hallow out a nice piece of bread and put dip.

Serve with crackers, toasts, vegetable crudites/vegetable stick.

If you want it light, omit mayonnaise and use light sour cream all the way. The kind of sour cream and mayonnaise used will affect the end product. My favorite sour cream is Bulla. As for mayonnaise, I always make my own.

Would you have a great and easy biscotti recipe to share?
JOANNE ZAPANTA-ANDRADA

Joanne dear, thank you so much for enjoying Kitchen Rescue! Yes, I do have an easy biscotti recipe. It is delicious! Here it is. Enjoy!

½ c butter
3/4 c brown sugar
¼ c white sugar
1 tbsp instant coffee
3 eggs
1 tsp vanilla
2 c all-purpose flour
1 ½ tsp baking powder
¼ tsp salt
½ tsp ground cinnamon
¼ tsp nutmeg
1 c chopped nuts of choice
½ c chocolate chips and ½ c white chocolate chips or 1 c of your chip of choice

Preheat oven to 350°F. Cream butter, brown and white sugar, and coffee in a mixer for five minutes. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat for three minutes.

Add vanilla. Add flour, baking powder, salt, cinnamon and nutmeg mix until well blended. Fold in nuts and chocolate.

Roll into a baton, like french bread. Bake for 30 minutes. Slice diagonally.

For crisper biscotti, rebake for 10 minutes.

If you wish, melt bittersweet chocolate over a double boiler and dip one portion so half will be coated in chocolate.

Lay on a rack until chocolate sets.

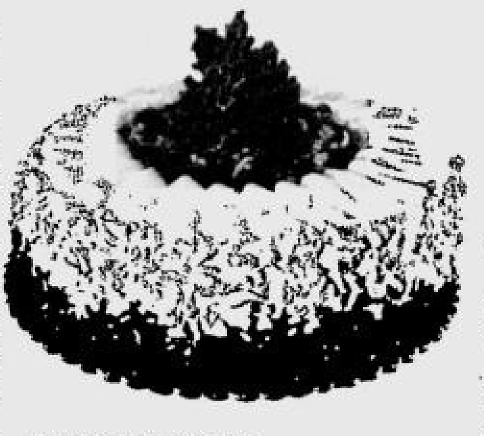
E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph.

A French classic

RED RIBBON INTRODUCES its newest cake creation, Chocolate Marjolaine, a multi-layered meringue cake with nuts and chocolate that traces its origins to France.

The cake was originally the masterpiece of the late chef Fernand Point, owner of France's La Pyramide restaurant. It became so popular that, up to now, chefs all over the world continue to bake and serve the world-renowned pastry.

Red Ribbon adds a twist to the classic cake by coating each of the six layers of meringue wafers with lightly sweet and luscious praline cream and premium chocolate. The cake is then adorned with roasted cashews and more rich chocolate— chocolate chips, shavings and a tower of chocolate.



MARJOLAINE Cake

Chocolate Marjolaine has a different mouth feel, treating your taste buds to a burst of flavors. You can savor every ingredient with each bite.

Visit the Red Ribbon outlet nearest you or call its delivery hotline, 7477777.

BSP coins a new program

By Linda B. Bolido

THE CONSUMER

COMMUTERS PROBABLY do not know it, but the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board has issued a memorandum circular in June that "enjoins all transport groups to support the National Coin Recirculation Program of the BSP (Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas)" by accepting coins as payment from passengers.

The circular, signed by chair Maria Elena Bautista and members Gerardo A. Pinili and Ma. Ellen Dirige-Cabatu, also directs public utility vehicles (PUVs) to give passengers their exact change.

What the circular means, according to the BSP, is PUVs cannot refuse to accept five and 10 centavo coins. In fact, no establishment can refuse to accept those coins.

But the problem is as much the commuter/consumer as drivers and commercial establishments.

Irony

It is ironic that in the affluent United States, Japan and European countries, people carefully save their coins, regardless of denomination, and confidently use them to pay for purchases and services without worrying that they would be refused.

Even in computing gratuity, many people in those places would give the exact amount—if a percentage of the bill is specified as tip—to the last cent, yen or pence.

Somebody told me that the Chinese also had a lot of respect for coins because they were round, always a lucky shape in feng shui.

And yet many Filipinos are too embarrassed to be seen holding the tiny one, five or 10 centavo coins. In supermarkets and department stores, they behave like they are being insulted when cashiers give them those coins.

Even more ironic, people who often don't have two pennies to rub together throw coins away like trash. You can see these coins on the streets and sidewalks.

I have heard shoppers suggest that establishments round off their prices so they will not have to give those coins. Well, I have news for these people. If establishments round off their prices, they are not going to do so at a loss to them. It will only mean more profits.

The store will not sell a product that should really cost P10.10 given taxes, profit markup, etc., for P10. If it will round off the price, it will most likely charge P10.25 or even P11.

If, on a given day, 1,000 shoppers refuse to take a five centavo coin, that will mean P50 that goes back to the store. In 30 days, that will total P1,500.

Respect the coin

The BSP's National Coin Recirculation Program aims to change this attitude toward coins. Under the program, if people don't want those round metal things for themselves, they can at least give them to institutions that do, like schools and churches.

After all, when put together, those ones, fives and tens add up to some very significant figures that can help schools buy much-needed supplies or support the church's charity work.

Whether people choose to use the coins to pay for purchases or donate it to a school or church, they still stand to benefit from the savings generated by keeping the metal currency in circulation. Minting one coin costs much more than its face value. A five centavo coin probably costs 50 centavos to make.

Even affluent countries withdraw old coins only gradually because of the cost involved in replacing every piece that is taken out of circulation. That is why the same denomination can come in different sizes and shapes, having been minted at different times—all of them legal tender.

Some people may ask why make coins at all, since they seem to be unwanted. One reason coins are better than paper bills is they last longer so they do not have to be replaced often.

And then, as I have already mentioned, they help keep prices within reasonable limits. Rounding off prices will not benefit consumers.

Do you really want establishments to earn more than they do now simply because you don't want those coins? Remember, not everyone pays correct taxes on their earnings so you lose on two counts—you pay more than you should for your purchases and the government gets less money for the work it has to do.

Our regular columnist, Marietta V. Giron, is indisposed. Please send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., Makati City; PO Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph —Editor

Grill resto opens two more branches

FORMALLY opening Dencio's at Robinsons Starmills Pampanga are Robinsons Malls general manager Nilo Mapa and San Fernando Pampanga Mayor Oscar Rodriguez.

DENCIO'S BAR & GRILL restaurant has opened in Robinsons Place Dasmariñas and Robinsons Starmills Pampanga.

Dencio's, which specializes in Filipino cuisine, particularly grilled dishes, is at the upper ground floor of Terraza Dasma of Robinsons Place Dasmariñas.

In Pampanga, the restaurant is at the ground floor of Robinsons Starmills. Dencio's bestsellers in Pampanga include Sisig, Krispy Pata, Sari-Saring Sinugba and other Filipino specialties.

The two new branches are open until 11 p.m. Live acoustic bands are featured on certain days of the week.

With maximum seating capacity of over a hundred, Dencio's can also be a venue for private functions and parties. It offers catering services and special food packages at reasonable prices. Contact Dencio's in Robinsons Place Dasmariñas at (046) 8522496 and in Robinsons Starmills Pampanga at (045) 8751212.

Test your skills as a wise shopper

SHOPWISE CHALLENGES SHOPpers to try their buying skills in its Stuff and Save Promo.

Until Oct. 8, Stuff and Save Promo bags will be on sale at P5 each in all Shopwise branches. All participating items stuffed inside the bag will get a 20-percent discount.

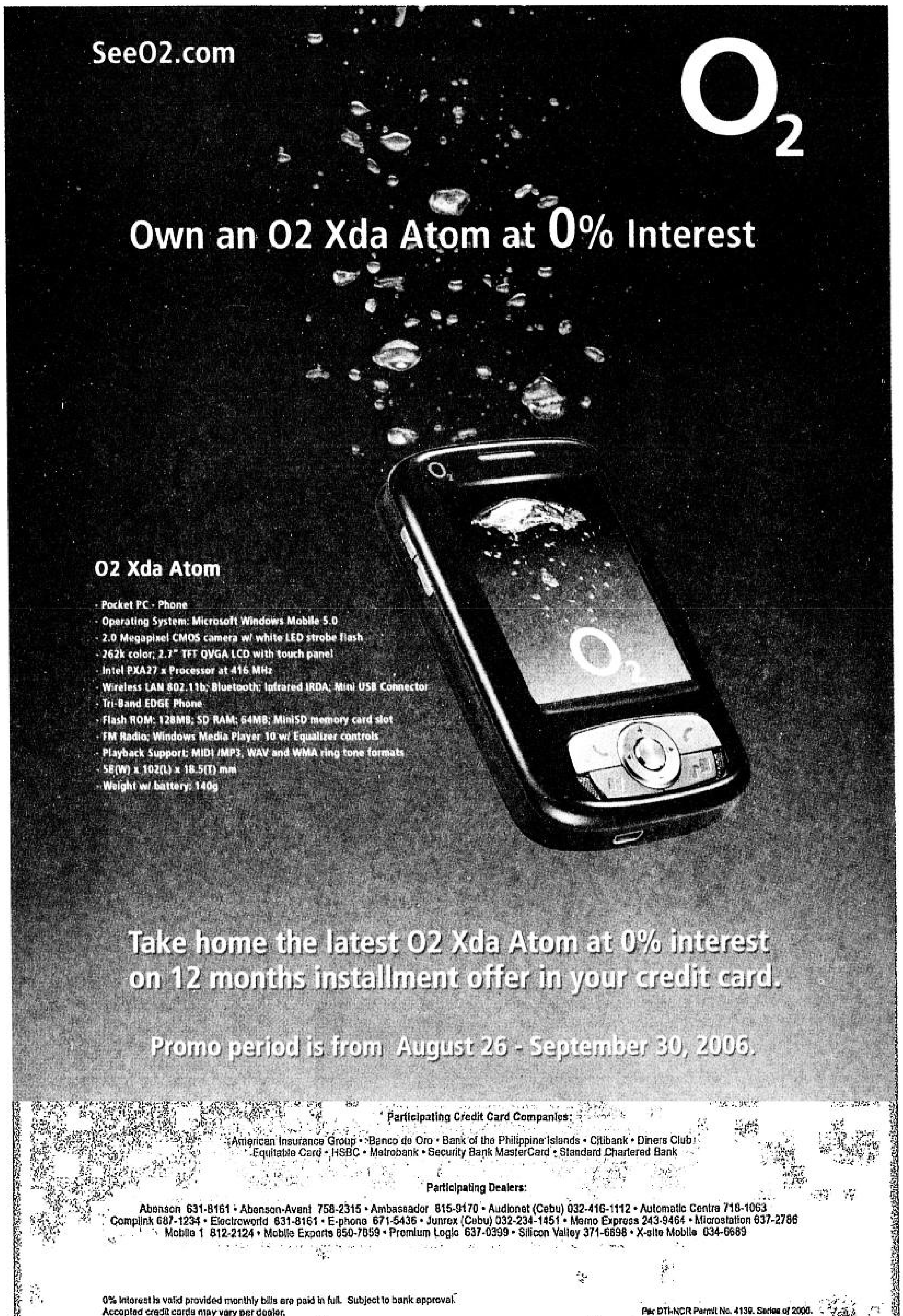
Wise shoppers can fill their Stuff and Save bag with items such as men's, ladies' and children's apparel; toys, kitchenware and kitchen linens, bed and bathroom items, home furnishing and décor, plastics and home organizers.

The bags are reusable so shoppers who will use them will be doing their part to protect the environment by reducing the use of plastic bags.

The challenge is for customers to put as many items in the bag without breaking it. Shoppers are invited to devise their own strategies to stuff the most number of items in the bag. The more items are stuffed, the more savings the shopper gets.

All bags are reusable until Oct. 31.

Shopwise has branches in Pasong Tamo, Makati; Libis, QC; Antipolo City; Harrison Plaza Mall; Festival Supermall, Alabang; and Araneta Center, Cubao.



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English high tea, Filipino style

COUNTRY COOKING

Micky Fenix

AFTER POINTING OUT IN A PREVIOUS column how our deluxe hotels here hardly feature Filipino cooking, it seems steps are already being taken to remedy that.

It turned out that Filipino high tea was introduced recently at the Makati Shangri-La Lobby Lounge. The English high tea is equivalent to our *merienda*, the afternoon repast.

But, unlike the English style where the food consists of small sandwiches, scones and tea cakes, Filipino *merienda* can consist of heavier fare, though in smaller containers. Some of these are noodles like *pancit* and even pasta (the Filipino spaghetti), rice cakes, *arroz caldo*, local pastries and cookies and side dishes, such as the *tokwa't baboy* to go with *pancit palabok*.

Light fare

The Filipino high tea we had at the Makati Shangri-La had relatively lighter fare. Perhaps it was to blend with the playful sculpture pieces on display in the garden, Claude Tayag's "Perya" series, a melange of colorful figures and tricks one finds in local carnivals.

We don't have as elegant a tea set as the English do. That day, an exquisite bone China set made by Wedgwood was used. The big teapots carried either *salabat* or chocolate.

I didn't get to taste the latter but I'm hoping it keeps to the Filipino character by being made from our local *tsokolate tablea* made foamy with a *batidor*.

While being thankful that Filipino food is now featured, I still went there with a critical eye. And so the first bite of the *bibingka*, placed on the very top layer, was to see if it was the real thing. Three cheers because it was. It wasn't pancake but *bibingka*. You could tell they used rice flour by the texture of the inside, less fine and with air pockets.

Executive chef Christopher Romine said they used to serve *bibingka* at Circles, the buffet area of the hotel. Some customers told him it wasn't authentic and so real *bibingka* was bought from an outside source so they would know what it was that made it so.

Family recipes

The other interesting story is how the *merienda* fare found its way into the menu. Philippe Caretti, vice president and general manager of the hotel, wanted Filipino food to be served but using recipes from families, from grandmothers and grandaunts.

That's the correct approach. Who better to teach the right techniques than those who have been cooking the dishes for years and who learned them from mothers and aunts? A committee tasted and those that were approved were on tea trays that same day.

Two of those grandaunts were also taking their Filipino high tea that day. They introduced themselves as Tita Nene and Tita Lydia Limson of Sta. Filomena, Guagua, Pampanga. Their niece, Marissa Dumangan, is the hotel's service leader at the Lobby Lounge, a member of the committee.

Their recipe was *patco*, something that was new to me and to many of us there. It's a crepe made of cassava, flour and eggs, topped with a mixture of freshly grated coconut and sugar then rolled like *lumpia*.

While the taste was there, both grandaunts said it should have been made thinner to make smaller rolls. *Patco* is usually served on special days like Christmas.

The Limson sisters said they learned how to cook from their aunts and their mother. Their family loved to entertain and so the cooking was incessant. They recalled some of the other food their kitchen produced—*gurgurya*, San Nicolas cookies, all kinds of *kakanin*, *pastel*, *relleno*, *embutido*.

When they talked about the unequalled tamales of their mother, Soledad Concepcion Limson, they mentioned two things to keep in mind: *tamang timpla* (right mixture of flavors) and *tamang higpit ng balot* (correct tightness of the banana leaf wrapping).

Documentation

How lucky then that the families tapped for this Filipino high tea will have a documentation of their recipes.

The day we were there, we had *tibok-tibok* as well, a kind of crème brûlée that's made with carabao's milk, made aromatic with *dayap* and topped with *latik*. The name is Pampango for heartbeat because, when placed in bigger containers, the mixture vibrates slowly when moved.

There was excellent *empanada* with mushrooms inside and a delightfully crunchy crust. The new thing, and a great variation, was mixing in the tomato salsa served with it.

Maruya, *saba* bananas coated with batter, was served with a light coco jam sauce. It wasn't the finger-shaped cut of my grandmother's *maruya* but then someone else's family must serve it that way.

Palitaw, that flattened rice batter cooked in boiling water then rolled in sugar, sesame seeds and grated coconut, was also part of the *merienda*.

The spread included sandwiches—*pan de sal* with *kesong puti* and *queso de bola*.

But, unlike English tea where the cakes and sandwiches can be served cold, *kakanin* harden as they cool down. Anything fried becomes limp and oily. There should be a way to keep those items warm, especially when you have tea with friends and the talking goes on and on.

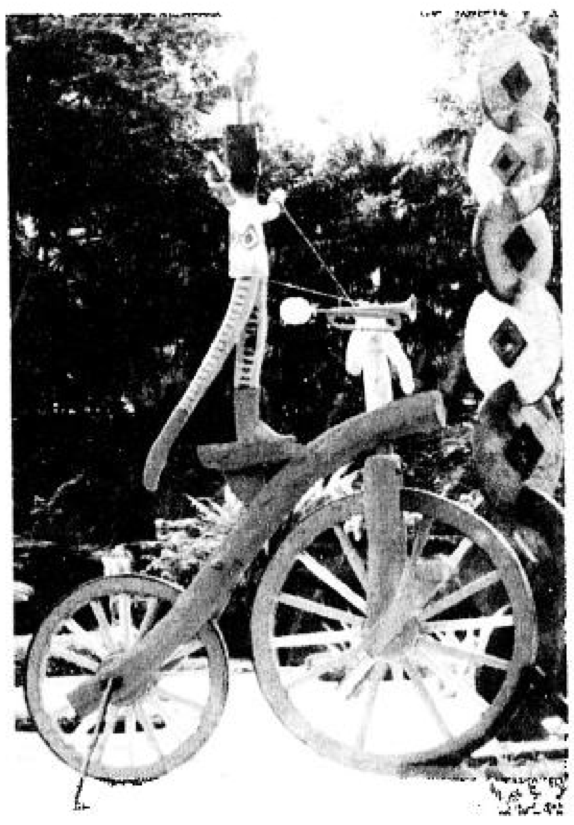
Someone suggested serving those in steamers. But what happens to the beautiful Wedgwood, especially that India series of tiny flowers against a yellow background?

For this Filipino high tea, it was a perfect choice because it evoked a garden during *merienda* when the sun is still high but about to say goodbye.

E-mail the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com

LAYERS of Filipino *merienda*: *bibingka*, *empanada*, *patco* and *maruya*

LYDIA and Nene Limson of Guagua, Pampanga, contributed their *patco* recipe.



WOOD SCULPTURE. Claude Tayag's garden sculpture of *perya* scenes

TIBOK-TIBOK* on a *platito*, brownish *maruya* and yellow rolls of *patco

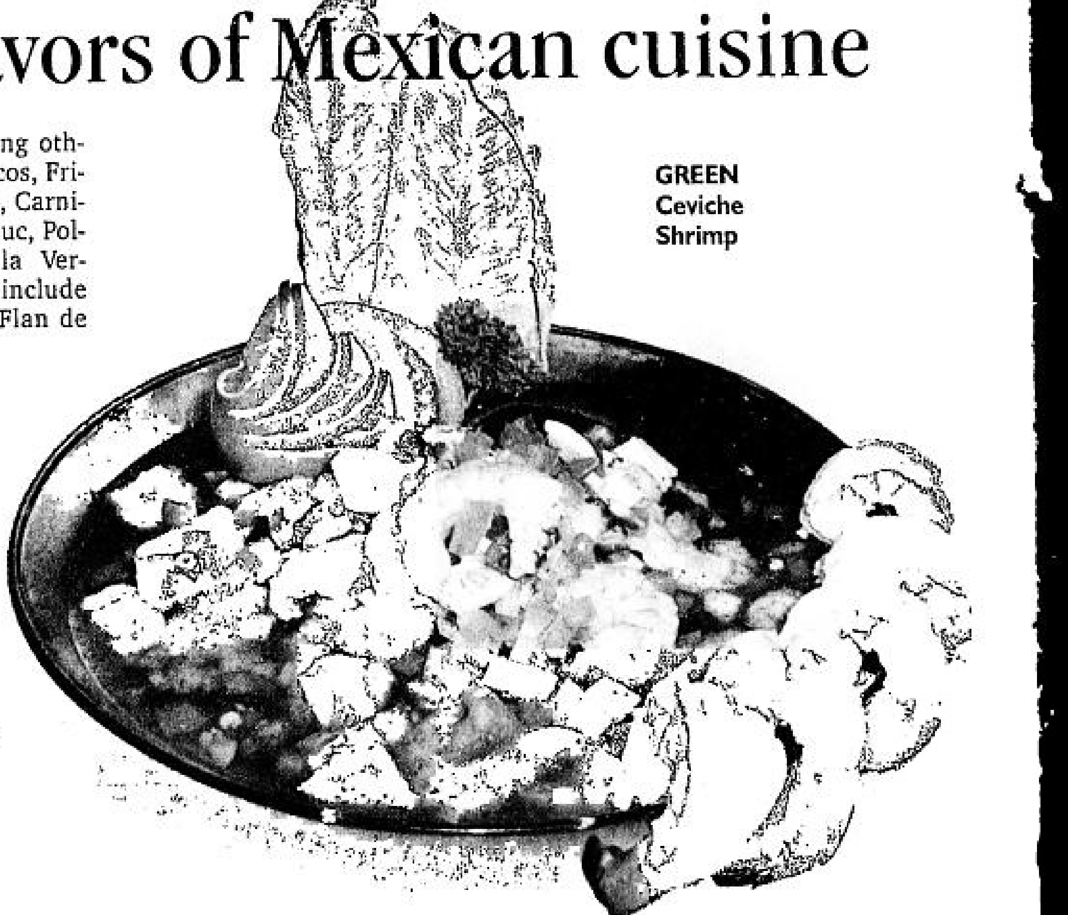
Showcasing the exotic and intense flavors of Mexican cuisine

IT IS FIESTA MEXICANA SEPT. 12-26 at Hyatt Regency Manila's Café Al Fresco.

Chefs Luis Alfonso Ramirez Canul and Sergio Alejandro Turriza Trejo of Hyatt Regency Mērida in Yucatan, Mexico, are giving Filipinos a sampling of real Mexican cuisine in the cafe's buffet spread.

Known for its intense flavors and ingenious fusion of fresh ingredients, Mexican cuisine features generous use of spices and herbs. Its colorful presentation speaks of the influence of Aztec and Mayan civilizations and years under Spain.

The buffet includes, among others, Ceviche Verde de Mariscos, Frijoles Charros, Sopa de Lima, Carnitas Estilo Michoacan Poc Chuc, Pollo Pibil, and Pescado a la Veracruzana. Mexican sweets include Arroz con Leche, Churros, Flan de Cajeta.



GREEN Ceviche Shrimp

Green Ceviche Shrimp

Serves: 5 persons
Ingredients:
120 g filled fish, stewed and cut in dices
120 g shrimps
120 g squid, cut diced
120 g octopus, stewed and cut in dices
100 g white onion, brunoise cut
100 g green tomatoes, brunoise cut
5 g coriander
3 ml olive oil
10 ml white wine
20 ml lemon juice
salt and pepper to taste
Procedure:

1. Cook all the shellfish in boiling water with lemon, salt and white wine. Drain.
2. In a separate pot, whiten the coriander in boiling water with lemon. Drain.
3. In a bowl, put all the shellfish and add the remaining ingredients plus the coriander fusion.
4. Serve with crackers or Mexican chips.

'Tikin Xic' Style Fish

Serves: 5 persons
Ingredients:
500 g fillet of fish
50 g achiote (*achuete*) paste
50 g lemon juice
5 ml olive oil
50 g garlic (for boiling)
100 g white onion, julienne cut
100 g green pepper, julienne cut
salt and pepper to taste
50 g banana leaves, smoked
Procedure:

1. Blend the achiote paste with onion, garlic, salt and lemon juice. Strain well.
2. Heat the banana leaves on a grill.
3. On the heated banana leaves, put the fillet of fish with the onion, green pepper and olive oil. Cover the banana leaves and bake at 150°F in the oven for 40 minutes.
4. Serve with corn tortillas.

Fajitas Mix Monterrey Style

Serves: 5 persons
Ingredients:
200 g chicken breast, cut fajitas style
200 g fillet of beef, cut fajitas style
100 g white onion, julienne cut
100 g red pepper, julienne cut
100 g green pepper, julienne cut
1 bottle dark beer
salt and pepper to taste
Procedure:

1. Marinate both meats with salt and pepper.
2. Preheat pan till very hot and put little olive oil.
3. Add the meats and sauté well with the vegetables. Mix for 1 minute.

Poc Chuc

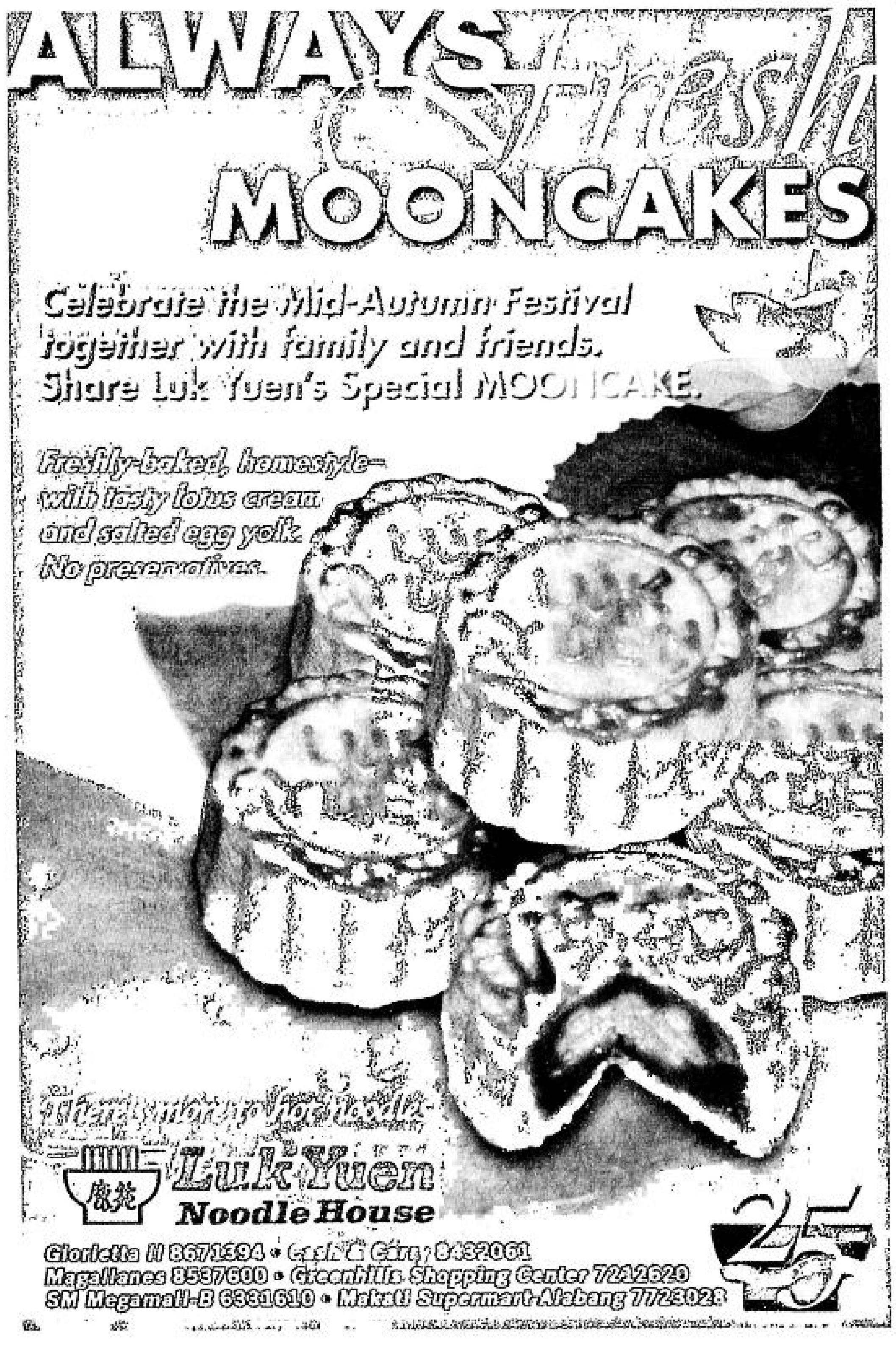
Serves: 5 persons
Ingredients:
400 g leg of pork
300 g sour orange
300 g tomato
200 g red onion
10 g coriander, chopped finely
salt for marination
Procedure:

1. Marinate the pork with sour orange and salt for an hour.
2. Cook the meat in the grill.

For the Sauce:

1. Bake the tomato and red onion in 200 degrees pre-heated oven for 15 minutes.
2. Subsequently, blend the tomatoes and dice the onion.
3. Finally, mix the coriander with the blended tomato and diced onion and season with salt.

POC Chuc



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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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GRAND CHAMPS: Baguio-based Hardboiledeggz won P800,000 in cash, among other prizes.

Rock'sta NC NAPI6 PAST
TESTAMENT

THESE young rock enthusiasts came from all over the metropolis and beyond; they were not going to let anything ruin their fun night. RYAN LIM

Can't wash away Muziklaban

Who would have dared wallow in the muddy swamp that was the band competition's rained-out venue?

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

REVIEW

THE RAINS FELL HARD SATurday night in the city, turning the wide open field fronting the former Manila Film Center at the CCP Complex into a muddy swamp that only carabaos might have dared wallow in.

But this was the venue of the 2006 Red Horse Muziklaban Rock Challenge finals, an event that suffered bad publicity last year due to a stampede at the Amoranto Stadium that resulted in the death of two teeners.

This time, a large contingent of cops and bouncers made sure the expected thousands behaved. Before reaching the entrance gate, one was made to traverse a long walkway that had several "checkpoints." Minors and those who appeared too intoxicated were asked to step aside and forget about watching the gig.

Getting in beyond that was a breeze.

Guest band Mayonnaise was playing when we arrived past 8, and the audio quality was near-perfect even from the back rows. But seeing the action onstage was impossible. Large video screens around the open field were useless. Inching my way to the front, I was discouraged by two 17-year-olds who said it was too dirty for comfort, anyway—they had tried dancing but their feet had sunk in the mud.

Gimme shelter

They were getting wet and cold, the two self-proclaimed punks murmured, could they share my umbrella? They had come with a whole gang from Bulacan, they said, rock 'n' roll devotees who flocked to concerts whenever possible.

For Muziklaban they had arrived early afternoon, paid P100 each at the gate. They felt bad that the foul weather had spoiled the promise of all-night fun.

Behind us, some kids had stripped naked and were frolicking in the rain a la Woodstock. The scene provided an amusing sidelight for those at the back who seemed content to just listen and drink their beers. Right beside us, three friends who said they were punks, too, but from Laguna, were dousing each other with beer, apparently drunk and determined not to let anything dampen their spirits.

"*Astig kayong lahat, di kayo umaalis kahit umuulan!*" shouted former Razorback frontman Kevin Roy from the stage.

Another guest band, DRT, desperately craved attention between songs. "*Ano pang hinihintay niyo*," the vocalist ranted, "*hithitin na natin 'yan!*"

I asked my newfound punk friends if they ever did drugs. "*Hindi po*," they

CAN'T WASH/ D5

MMFF launches digi-docu contest

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) has launched a digital documentary competition dubbed "Evolution ... Revolution ng Pelikulang Pilipino."

The contest has two categories, tackling two topics: history of Philippine cinema and history of the MMFF.

In a letter addressed to media, Bayani Fernando, chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority which runs the MMFF, said the competition's goal is "to increase the level of public awareness on the MMFF and Filipino movies in general."

Tasked as project implementers are representatives of the original beneficiaries of the film festival: Ric Camaligan, president of Movie Industry Anti-Piracy Organization; Leo Martinez, director general of Film Academy of the Philippines; and Boots Anson-Roa, executive director of Movie Workers Welfare Foundation (Mowelfund).

In a phone interview, Roa told INQUIRER Entertainment that the contest is Fernando's brainchild.

"This was made possible through his initiative. He wants to make the MMFF open to inde-

MMFF/ D3

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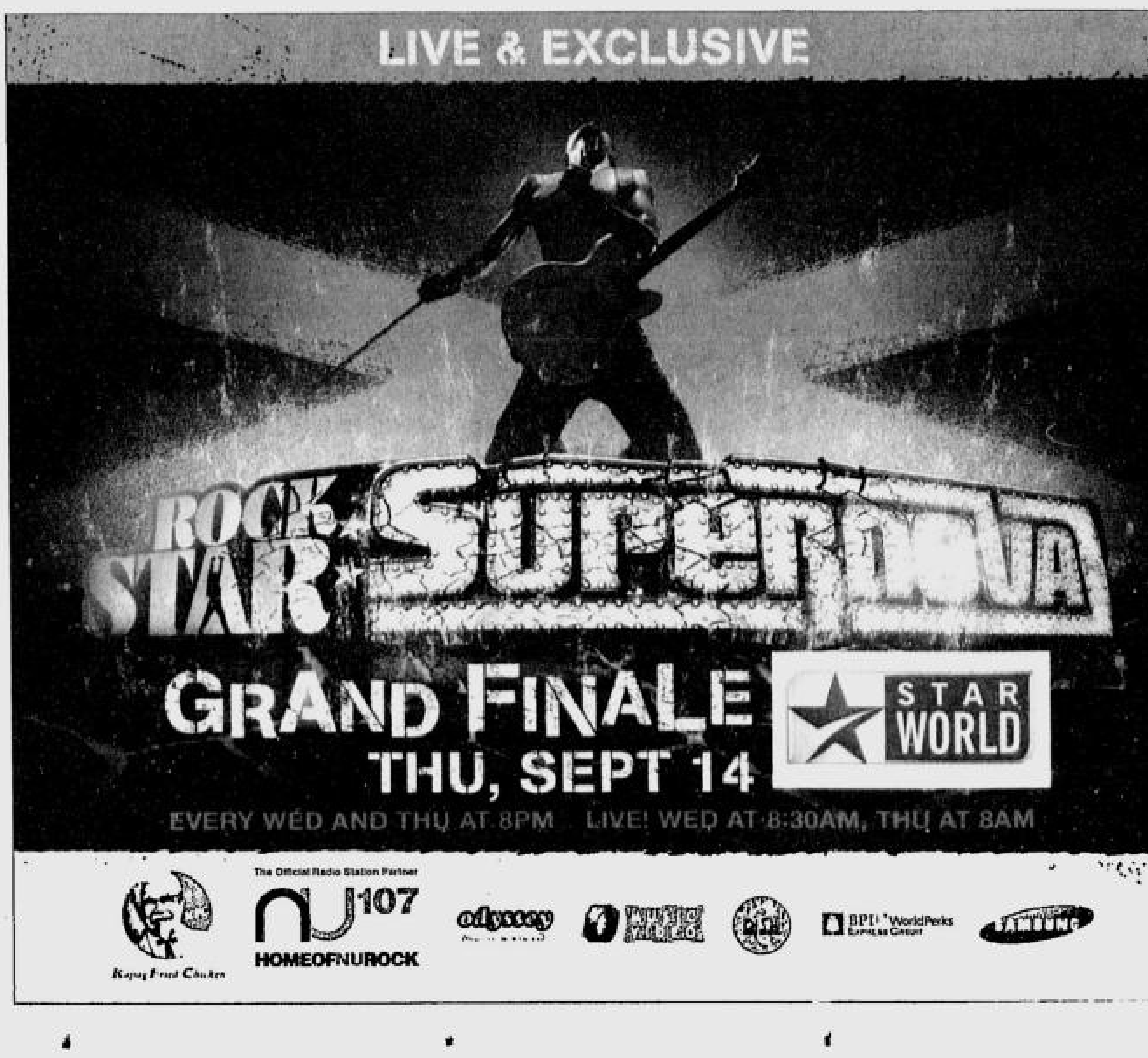
FINAL DECISION
Tommy Lee, Gilby Clarke and Jason Newsted choose the front man for their new band today on "Rock Star: Supernova," Star World, 8 a.m. The four remaining contenders are (clockwise from above left) Lukas Rossi, Dilana Robichaux, Toby Rand and Magni Asgeirsson. Prime time replay at 8 p.m.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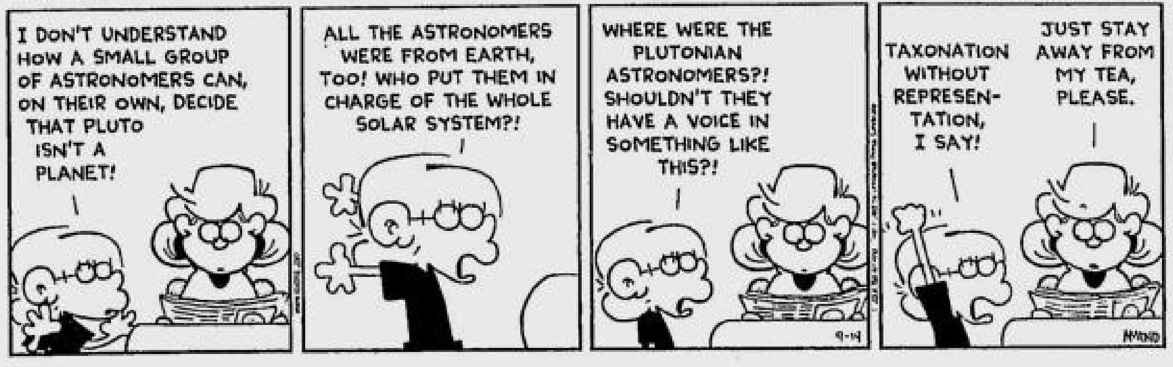
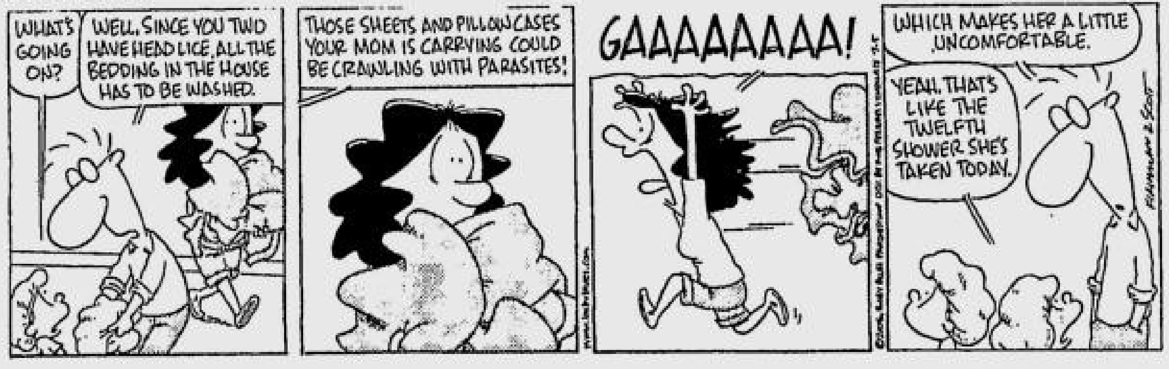
BY BILL AMEND


I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW A SMALL GROUP OF ASTRONOMERS CAN, ON THEIR OWN, DECIDE THAT PLUTO ISN'T A PLANET!
ALL THE ASTRONOMERS WERE FROM EARTH, TOO! WHO PUT THEM IN CHARGE OF THE WHOLE SOLAR SYSTEM?!
WHERE WERE THE PLUTONIAN ASTRONOMERS?! SHOULDN'T THEY HAVE A VOICE IN SOMETHING LIKE THIS?!
TAXONATION WITHOUT REPRESEN-TATION, I SAY!
JUST STAY AWAY FROM MY TEA, PLEASE.
9-14
AMEND

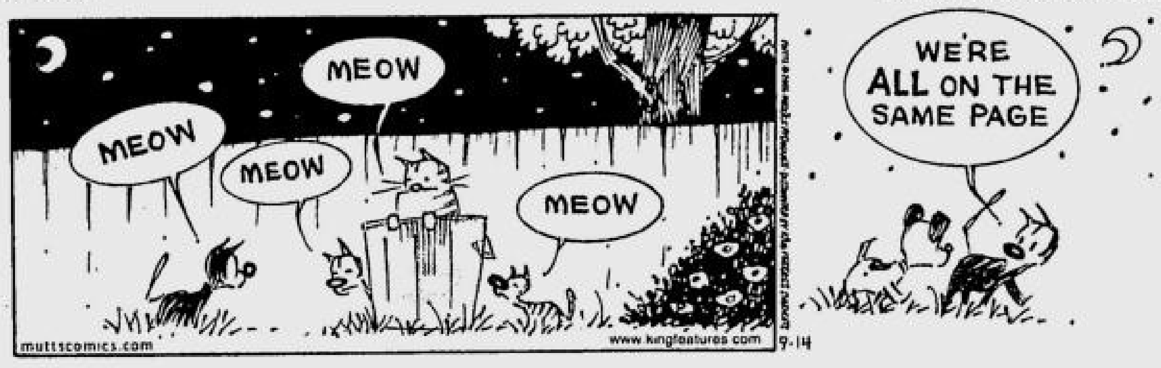
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT'S GOING ON?
WELL, SINCE YOU TWO HAVE HEAD LICE, ALL THE BEDDING IN THE HOUSE HAS TO BE WASHED.
THOSE SHEETS AND PILLOWCASES YOUR MOM IS CARRYING COULD BE CRAWLING WITH PARASITES!
GAAAAAAAA!
WHICH MAKES HER A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE.
YEAH, THAT'S LIKE THE TWELFTH SHOWER SHE'S TAKEN TODAY.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

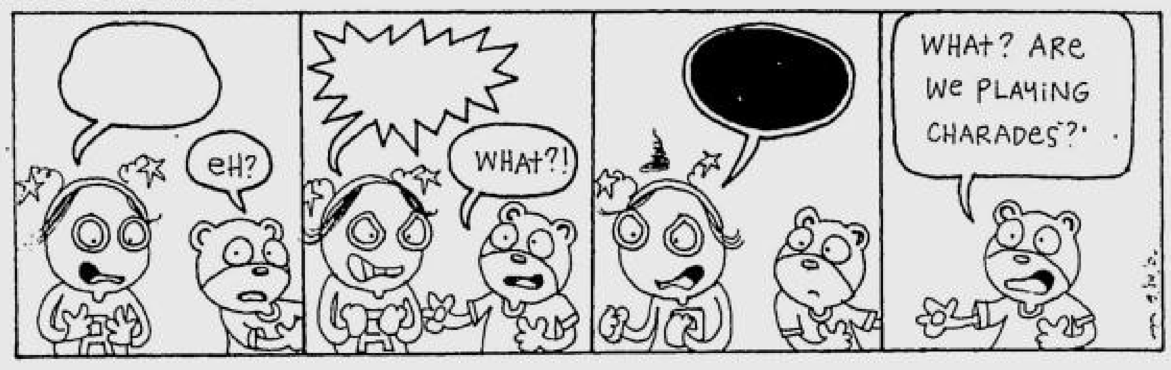
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MEOW
MEOW
MEOW
MEOW
WE'RE ALL ON THE SAME PAGE
muttscomics.com
www.kingfeatures.com
9-14

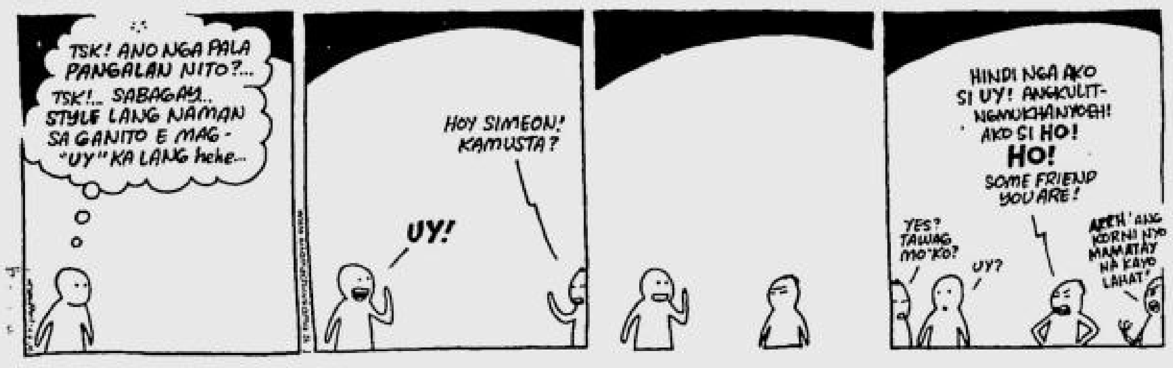
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


eH?
WHAT?!
WHAT? ARE WE PLAYING CHARADES?

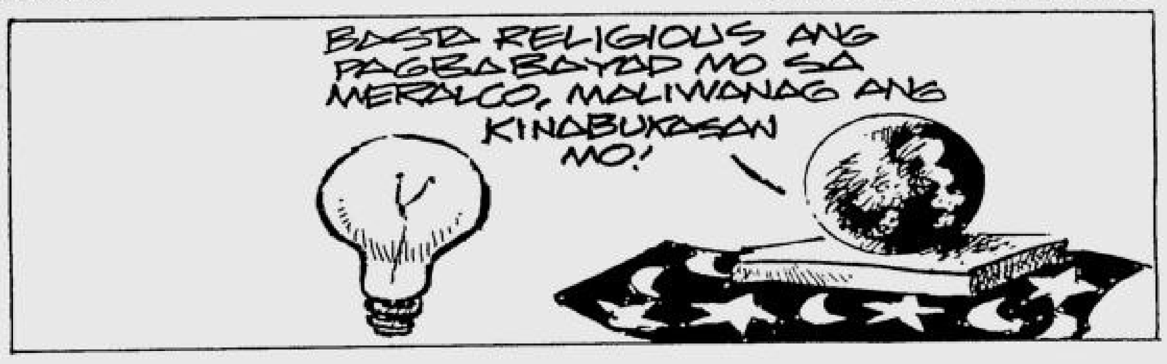
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TSK! ANO NGA PALA PANGALAN NITO?... TSK!.. SABAGAY.. STYLE LANG NAMAN SA GANITO E MAG-"UY" KA LANG hehe..
HOY SIMEON! KAMUSTA?
UY!
HINDI NGA AKO SI UY! ANGKULIT-NGMUKHANYOEH! AKO SI HO! HO! SOME FRIEND YOU ARE!
YES? TAWAG MO'KO?
UY?
ARGH 'ANG KORNI NYO MAMATAY NA KAYO LAHAT!

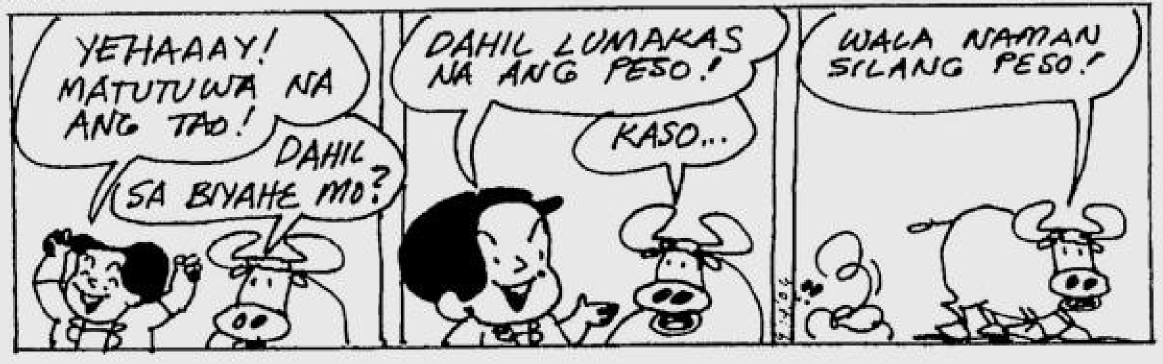
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BASTA RELIGIOUS ANG PAGBABAYAD MO SA MERALCO, MALIWANAG ANG KINABUKASAN MO!

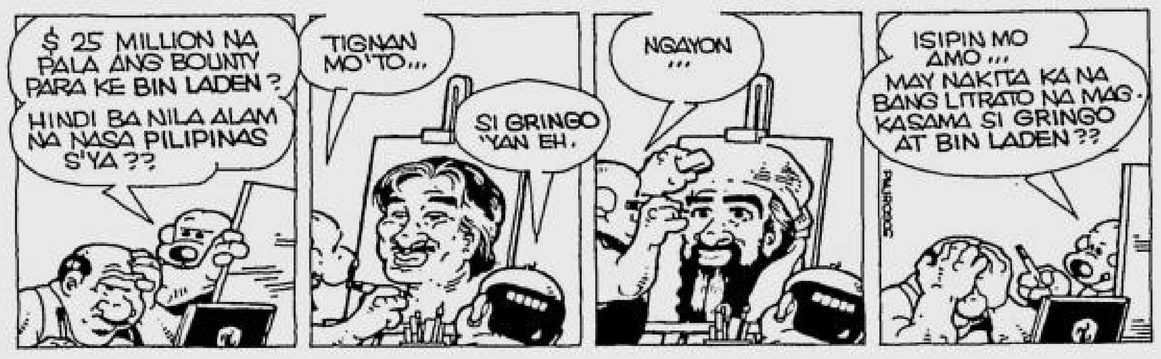
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


YEHAAAY! MATUTUWA NA ANG TAO!
DAHIL SA BIYAHE MO?
DAHIL LUMAKAS NA ANG PESO!
KASO...
WALA NAMAN SILANG PESO!

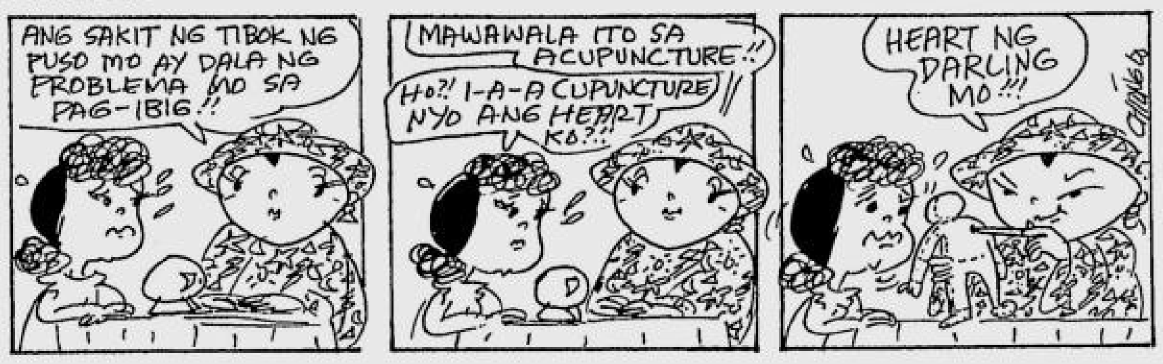
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


$ 25 MILLION NA PALA ANG BOUNTY PARA KE BIN LADEN ?
HINDI BA NILA ALAM NA NASA PILIPINAS S'YA ??
TIGNAN MO 'TO...
SI GRINGO 'YAN EH.
NGAYON ...
ISIPIN MO AMO ... MAY NAKITA KA NA BANG LITRATO NA MAG-KASAMA SI GRINGO AT BIN LADEN ??
PMJR2006

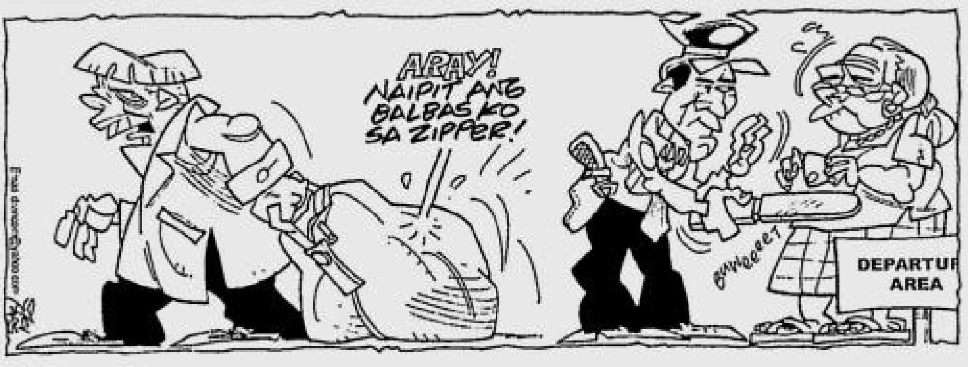
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG SAKIT NG TIBOK NG PUSO MO AY DALA NG PROBLEMA MO SA PAG-IBIG!!
MAWAWALA ITO SA ACUPUNCTURE!!
Ho?! I-A-ACUPUNCTURE NYO ANG HEART KO?!!
HEART NG DARLING MO!!!
CHIONGLO

DIVINE COMEDY

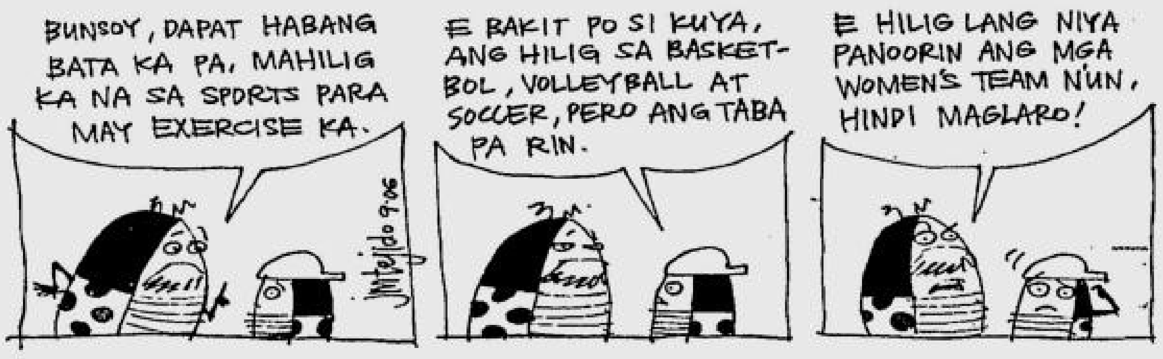
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


ARAY! NAIPIT ANG BALBAS KO SA ZIPPER!
DEPARTUR AREA

SA IKATLONG PAGKAKATAON, NAKALUSOT ANG "TERRORIST EXPERT" SA MGA SECURITY GUARD NG NAIA NANG NAI-SMUGGLE NYA SI BIN LADEN SA ISANG TRAVELING BAG SAKAY NG ISANG COMMERCIAL FLIGHT

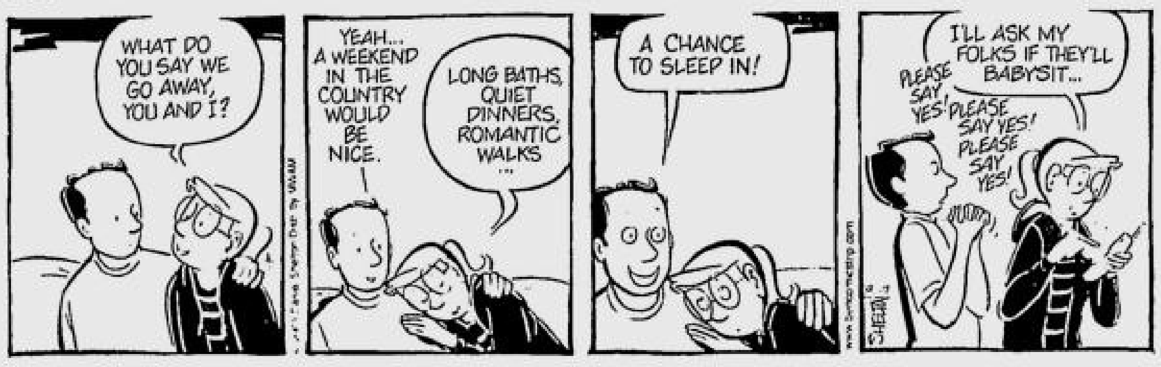
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

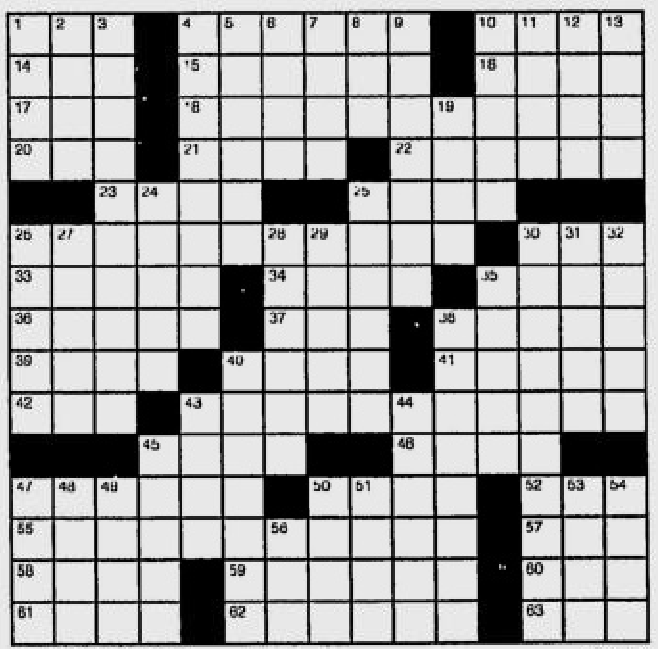

BUNSOY, DAPAT HABANG BATA KA PA, MAHILIG KA NA SA SPORTS PARA MAY EXERCISE KA.
E BAKIT PO SI KUYA, ANG HILIG SA BASKETBOL, VOLLEYBALL AT SOCCER, PERO ANG TABA PA RIN.
E HILIG LANG NIYA PANOORIN ANG MGA WOMEN'S TEAM N'UN, HINDI MAGLARO!
JMTejido 9-06

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GO AWAY, YOU AND I?
YEAH... A WEEKEND IN THE COUNTRY WOULD BE NICE.
LONG BATHS, QUIET DINNERS, ROMANTIC WALKS ...
A CHANCE TO SLEEP IN!
I'LL ASK MY FOLKS IF THEY'LL BABYSIT...
PLEASE SAY YES!
PLEASE SAY YES! PLEASE SAY YES!
SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Victor Fleming
Little Rock, AR

9/14/06

ACROSS
1 Puppy's bite
4 Calyx parts
10 Lady's address
14 Inn order
15 Rainbow band
16 Opera song
17 By way of
18 Start of a broker's sign
20 Nodding response
21 Como __ Usted?
22 Confront boldly
23 Aesop's loser
25 New Mexico art colony
26 Part 2 of sign
30 Dol. divisions
33 Island leader?
34 Creative Coward
35 Fairway alert
36 Prey on the mind
37 Clever
38 Wall painting
39 "__ Tu" (1974 hit)
40 Burn a bit
41 "__ Hall"
42 Patriotic women's soc.
43 Part 3 of sign
45 Nuisance
46 Hotel employee
47 Acquire
50 Up to something
52 Cartoonist Keane
55 End of sign
57 Period
58 Taxi charge
59 Founder of Taoism
60 Cassowary cousin
61 Has dinner
62 Accounting activities
63 Current craze

DOWN
1 Blue shade
2 Nastase of tennis
3 Child's toy weapon
4 W. __ Maugham
5 Pencil's end
6 Hair line
7 "Diana" singer
8 T-shirt size
9 Do a judge's job
10 Bucks and bulls
11 Locality
12 Broadcasts
13 Actor Dillon
19 The King's middle name
24 Robert and Alan
25 "__ Coming to Take Me Away, Ha, Haaa!"
26 Let loose
27 "A Rage to Live" author
28 Hidden
29 Power option
30 Reuben ingredient
31 Lag behind
32 Monica with a racket
35 Mold and smut
38 Seacows
40 Shoe polish brand
43 Stand in line
44 Surrounded by
45 Peels
47 Switch positions
48 Boyfriend
49 Pool pull-over
50 Yanks 3rd baseman
51 French actor Jacques
53 "__ la Douce"
54 Praise highly
56 Greek letter

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

E	T	A	I	L		A	T	E	S	T		M	O	S
N	A	L	D	I		T	O	S	C	A		A	G	T
O	U	T	O	F	T	H	E	P	I	C	T	U	R	E
		E	S	T	E	E				T	I	M	E	R
I	S	R		S	E	N	S	E	D		C	A	S	E
T	H	E	O			S	A	D	A	T		U	S	O
T	A	G	G	E	R		N	I	C	H	E			
	H	O	L	D	I	N	G	T	H	E	B	A	G	
			E	I	D	E	R		A	E	R	I	E	S
A	C	T		E	E	R	I	E			O	R	A	L
R	A	R	E		R	O	A	M	E	D		B	R	A
C	R	I	E	R				B	R	A	V	O		
A	T	A	L	O	S	S	F	O	R	W	O	R	D	S
D	O	G		M	O	R	E	S		E	T	N	A	S
E	N	E		P	L	A	N	S		S	E	E	D	S

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9/14/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are shrewd, observant and extremely capable. Whatever you do, you like to do it efficiently and effectively. You want top results. You have a strong social conscience and are very tuned in to what is going on around you. You advocate reform; you want to make the world a better place. Work hard this year for rewards in 2007.
Birthdate of: Adam Lamberg, actor; Sam Neill, actor; Dan Cortese, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Don't try to convince others you're right about something. Because you're the sign of the warrior, you like to have the first word—and the last.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You feel obsessed about wanting to buy something today. Ideally, this is not the right frame of mind in which to part with your hard-earned cash—don't you agree?

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today the Moon in your sign opposes big Daddy Pluto. This could definitely bring about power struggles with partners and close friends. Be patient.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Get rid of garbage and stuff you no longer need. Your sign tends to collect stuff because you always think you might use it someday. Don't be a pack rat.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Avoid arguments or disagreements with friends and members of groups. You're a natural leader, and you often want your way. But this isn't worth it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is not the day to go toe to toe with your boss or your parent. It won't be a pretty picture. People feel passionately and heated about things. Therefore, back off.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Resist your urge to try to proselytize or influence others to get them to agree with you about political, spiritual or religious ideas. You can't really change other people. (Plus, there are none so deaf as those who are wearing headphones.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is not a good day to try to share something or spend an allotted amount of money. You feel very strongly about something. Wait until you feel more mellow and calm.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Feelings of jealousy arise easily today. Knowing this, remain calm. If you feel stifled or held back in some way, ignore it. The feeling will pass quickly.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Don't be pushy with co-workers today. On the other hand, this is a good day to get rid of garbage and anything you no longer need or use on the job.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Family discussions are heated today. In particular, talks with parents, VIPs and authority figures could quickly disintegrate into meaningless arguments. Keep your cool.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You're obsessed with an idea today. You simply can't get out of your mind. Fortunately, it's gone by tomorrow. (Whew!)

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

		1	6	2		5		
			1					
4			8					3
						1	3	9
3								6
8	5	6						
7					1			8
					2			
		4		9	8	6		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/14

©2006 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

1	9	8	3	6	4	7	5	2
3	4	2	1	7	5	9	8	6
7	6	5	8	9	2	1	3	4
6	2	7	4	1	8	5	9	3
9	5	1	2	3	7	6	4	8
4	8	3	9	5	6	2	7	1
2	3	9	7	4	1	8	6	5
5	1	4	6	8	9	3	2	7
8	7	6	5	2	3	4	1	9

Difficulty Level ★★★

MMFF launches digi-docu contest

From page D1

pendent filmmakers and documentarians by encouraging them to participate in the annual December event. At the same time, we are highlighting the histories of the MMFF and local movie industry," Roa said.

The new contest aims to "promote independent short films and documentaries alongside the mainstream and commercial fare usually seen during the MMFF," Roa added.

The contest is open to all Filipinos, except to Execom members and their relatives (first degree of consanguinity). The digital filmmakers can submit entries in the following formats: straight documentary, docu-drama or docu-musical (music video), with maximum running time of 20 minutes.

Among the requirements are: list and profile of the artistic team; synopsis; copy of script or sequence treatment; budget breakdown; technical and creative staff/cast information; distribution or dissemination plan.

BAYANI Fernando

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Deadline for submission of requirements is last week of September. Winners are to be announced in the MMFF awards show on Dec. 29.

Roa said Fernando had suggested that the grand prizes for each category be increased from P500,000 to P800,000.

"We will also be awarding four honorable mention prizes that come with P50,000 each for the two categories. That's P2 million in total. As bonus, the two winning docus will be blown up to 35mm film, to be shown in theaters along with the MMFF entries," she said.

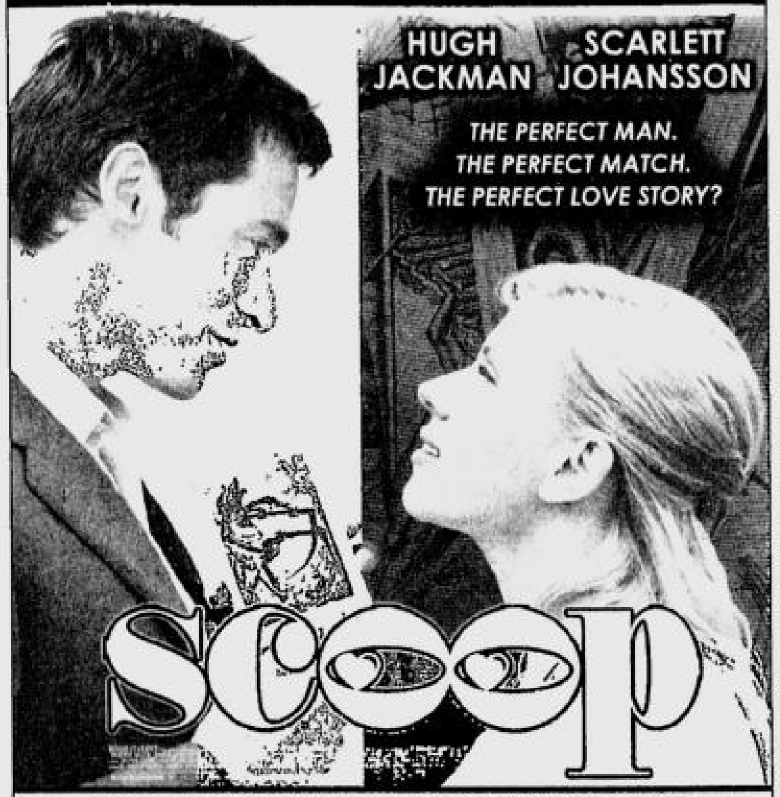
From 1993 to 1994, the MMFF similarly came out with a short-film component, under the auspices of Mowelfund. Among the short films produced then were: Emanuel Davidas' "Anak Maynila," Nick Deocampo's "Isaak," Luis Quirino's "Pasakalye," Joey and Roby Agbayani's "Ang Bantay."

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

MONSTER HOUSE G 1:00,3:00,5:00,7:00,9:00	YOU ME AND DUPREE PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10	SCOOP PG13 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:25
CRANK R13 2:00,4:00,6:00, 8:00,10:00	DEVIL WEARS PRADA PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00	CRANK R13 2:10,4:10,6:10, 8:10,10:10

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR VERIFICATION CALL 898-1440/41

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
AMERICA'S HOTTEST AND SEXIEST STARS
TOGETHER IN A DANGEROUSLY ROMANTIC COMEDY



HUGH JACKMAN SCARLETT JOHANSSON
THE PERFECT MAN.
THE PERFECT MATCH.
THE PERFECT LOVE STORY?
SCOOP

"JACKMAN AND JOHANSSON, HANDLE THE SEXUAL HIJINKS IN STYLE!"
Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE
"JACKMAN IS IN FULL CARY GRANT MODE. JOHANSSON IS LUMINOUS!"
Bob Ross, TAMPA TRIBUNE
"A CHARMING, ROMANTIC COMEDY THRILLER"
Christy Karras, SALT LAKE CITY TRIBUNE
"THE FUNNIEST MOVIE OF THE YEAR SO FAR! FUNNY LIKE YOU WALK OUT WANTING TO TELL YOUR FRIENDS ITS BEST LINES. FUNNY LIKE YOU'RE WALKING DOWN THE STREET AND REMEMBER A MOMENT AND START LAUGHING LIKE AN IDIOT."
Mick LaSalle, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
"GUARANTEED TO KEEP YOU SMILING!"
Rex Reed, NEW YORK OBSERVER
"THERE ARE PLENTY OF OLD-SCHOOL MURDER-MYSTERY MOMENTS TO KEEP YOU GUESSING."
Lisa Kennedy, DENVER POST

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 WICKER MAN / DEVIL WEARS PRADA 10:50, 1:10, 3:25 // 6:20, 8:50 PG-13
CINEMA 2 THE WICKER MAN 10:50, 1:10, 3:30 5:50, 8:10, 10:25 PG-13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 CRANK 11:00, 1:20, 3:40 6:00, 8:20, 10:35 R-13
CINEMA 4 SCOOP 11:00, 1:15, 3:35 5:55, 8:15, 10:35 PG13
CINEMA 5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE 10:40, 1:00, 3:20 5:40, 8:00, 10:25 PG-13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

SEPT. 14, 2006	DANITA PANER	8:00PM
SEPT. 15 & 16, 2006	ERIK SANTOS & RUFFA MAE QUINTO	8:00PM

TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY	CERRUDO ... CLASSICO	8:00PM
SEPT. 14,21, 28,2006	ISAY ALVAREZ & ROBERT SENA	8:30 PM
	FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC.116	

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

Eastwood City Jazz sessions
LAUNCHING EVENT
feat. Skarlet, Brass Munkeys, Johnny Alegre Affinity & friends
September 16, 2006
8:00 PM / Eastwood City Walk 2
FREE ADMISSION
Eastwood City
Tel. 687-6770 to 74 • 0917-8-EWCITY

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE 1:55, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40	THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 11:00
	PG-13	
2	MONSTER HOUSE 1:55, 4:10, 6:25 G	YOU, ME & DUPREE 1:55, 4:10, 6:25 PG-13
3	SCOOP 12:55, 3:20, 5:45, 8:45, 8:10, 10:35 PG-13	
4	CRANK 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30 R-13	

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification please call 729 7777
THX

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 PENGUIN PENGUIN PAANO KA GINAWA?	2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	3 BINIBINING K	4 YOU ARE THE ONE
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 CRANK	2 YOU, ME & DUPREE	3 THX SCOOP GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 THE WICKER MAN	5 MONSTER HOUSE	6 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	7 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 SCOOP	2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX SCOOP GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 YOU, ME & DUPREE GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CRANK GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE GUARANTEED SEATS	2 SCOOP		
	3 CRANK	4 PENGUIN PENGUIN PAANO KA GINAWA?	5 YOU, ME & DUPREE	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 MONSTER HOUSE	2 YOU, ME & DUPREE	3 CRANK	4 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 CRANK	2 PENGUIN PENGUIN PAANO KA GINAWA?		
	3 BINIBINING K	4 YOU ARE THE ONE	5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	

At the Activity Center
Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
39th BPI Installment Madness August 30 to September 17, 2006	Anson's Emporium September 10 to 24, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Grow Advance Fantastic Fiesta Mall Show September 16, 2006	Agency of the Year September 15, 2006

GREENBELT
Samba Nights at GB 2
Sitti - September 27, 2006; Sofia - September 13 & 20

Greenbelt Onstage
Repertory Philippines presents
Walt Disney's ALADDIN JR. at REP's Globe Theater
September 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 23, 28, 29 & 30
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM
Ode To The Pasig River
Extended until September 17, 2006
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org

Out 20th September
Exclusively at Ayala Malls Cinemas
Ayala Malls CINEMAS
From the Creators of 'Calendar Girls'
Kinky Boots
Inspiration comes from all walks of life.

"Priscilla, Queen Of The Desert Meets The Full Monty."
— The Observer
(OPENING NIGHT - 2006 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL)
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)
MIRAMAX
HARBOUR PICTURES
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures
glorietta GREENBELT

Shops at Serendra
Ayala Malls
PRESENTS
SERENDRA
RHYTHMS
7:30 PM Fountain Area of Shops at Serendra
September 8 and 29 **Paolo Santos**
September 15 **Sitti**
October 6 **Nina**
Bonifacio
923 JOEY It's a groove thing!
forward taguig

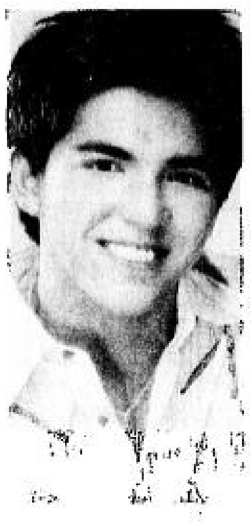
ROUNDUP

'The Covenant' top draw in US, Canada this week

LOS ANGELES—"The Covenant," a tale of supernatural teens trying to destroy each other at an elite boarding school, hit the top of the weekend box office with a $9 million take, according to studio estimates.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at US and Canadian theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations, official trackers:

1) "The Covenant," $9M; 2) "Hollywoodland," $6M; 3) "Invincible," $5.8M; 4) "The Protector," $5M; 5) "Crank," $4.8M; 6) "The Illusionist," $4.6M; 7) "Little Miss Sunshine," $4.4M; 8) "The Wicker Man," $4.1M; 9) "Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby," $3M; 10) "Barnyard: The Original Party Animals," $2.6M. *AP*



MARK Herras

Star City opens

On its opening weekend, Sept. 16 and 17, Star City gives patrons a P40 off from the regular price of Ride-All-You-Can pop tags.

On its opening day, a free concert will be staged featuring teen idols Jennylyn Mercado, Mark Herras and Diether Ocampo and pop bands Blow and Freestyle.

The theme park, open from 4 p.m. on weekdays and 1 p.m. on weekends, is located at the CCP Complex, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City.

'Twilight' gets R-18

The Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) has rated the film "Twilight Dancers" R-18, after the producer agreed to make certain deletions on its second and final review.

Directed by Mel Chionglo, the adult film, which had its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival on Sept. 8, was initially rated X by the board's first review committee.

The second committee also found the film "unfit for public viewing" (or X-rated) and recommended the voluntary deletion of several scenes.

The movie-TV board's second review committee consisted of writer Alfred Yuson, actor Jackie Aquino, critic Mario Hernando, actor-director Arsenio "Boots" Bautista and lawyer Zosimo Alegre.

"Among the deleted scenes were the snake dance, the sodomy act and frontal nudity of male strippers," said Dante Mendoza of Center Stage, the film's producer.

"Those were the same scenes that the first committee had found objectionable," said board chair Marissa Laguardia, quoting the first committee's report.

With the R-18 rating, Mendoza is confident the movie's sneak preview (on Sept. 18 at Robinsons Galleria) and theatrical run (on Sept. 20) will go on as scheduled. *Bayani San Diego Jr.*

Piracy case

The Movie Industry Anti-Piracy Organization (MIAPOI) reported the filing of a case against suspected film pirate Imelda Manangan by the Tarlac City police.

Manny Nuqui, MIAPOI vice chair, said Manangan was allegedly caught videotaping Star Cinema's "Sukob," at Cinema 3 of Metro Town Mall in Tarlac on Aug. 11.

He added that the movie's producer would also file a case against Manangan, who had been allegedly caught by projectionist Ariel Manalastas, aided by ticket-booth supervisor Ofelia Santiago and porter Jenny Martinez.

MIAPOI and the National Cinema Association of the Philippines (NCAP) have inked a memorandum of agreement to intensify their anti-piracy campaign, setting up a reward system for alert theater personnel that will turn over suspected pirates.

Ric Camaligan, president of MIAPOI and NCAP, said "theater personnel are the first line of defense … providing incentives for them will strengthen the anti-piracy campaign."

'GamePlan'

"GamePlan" goes to the Manila Yacht Club this week to wade in the waters and spend the afternoon with members of Sailability Philippines.

It checks on Cherrie Pinpin's performance in the Women's Helm Regatta, a sailing competition held at the Taal Lake Yacht Club.

The sports magazine show also challenges members of the Southeast Asian Institute for the Deaf in a game of basketball.

The episode airs on Sept. 17, 1:30 p.m. on Studio 23.

'Maximo' screening

"Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros," the Philippine entry to the 2007 Oscars, will be commercially shown in local theaters on Sept. 20.

Unitel Pictures and its sister post company, Optima Digital, have remastered the film and will show it in an enhanced 35 mm film format.

The film will also be shown in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco, simultaneous with its Philippine release.

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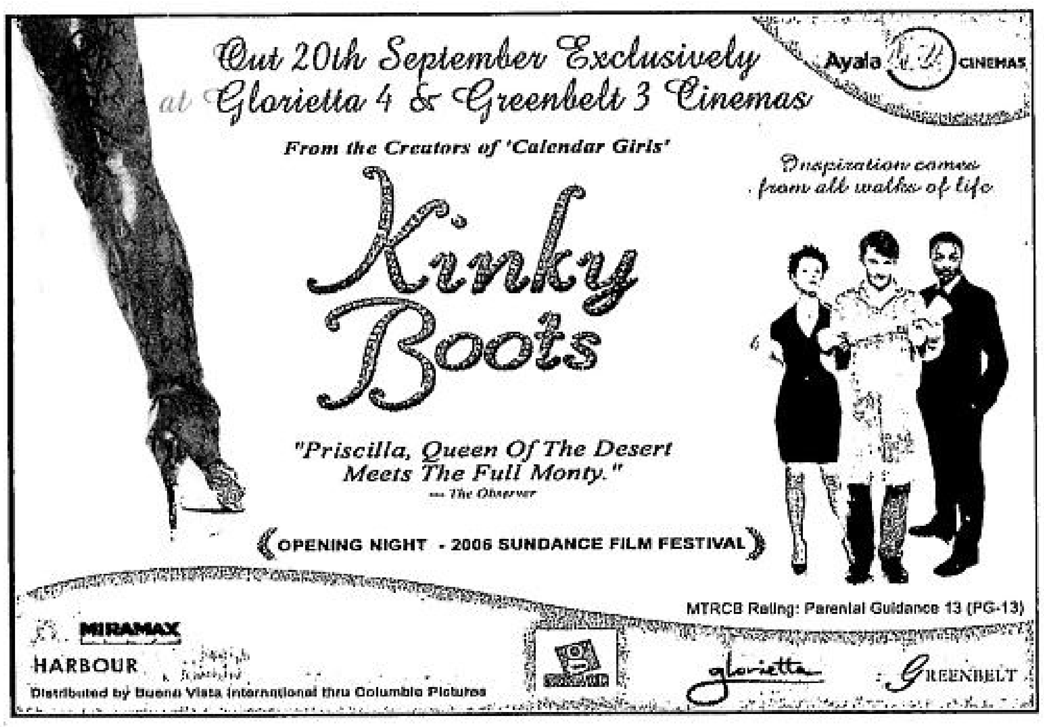

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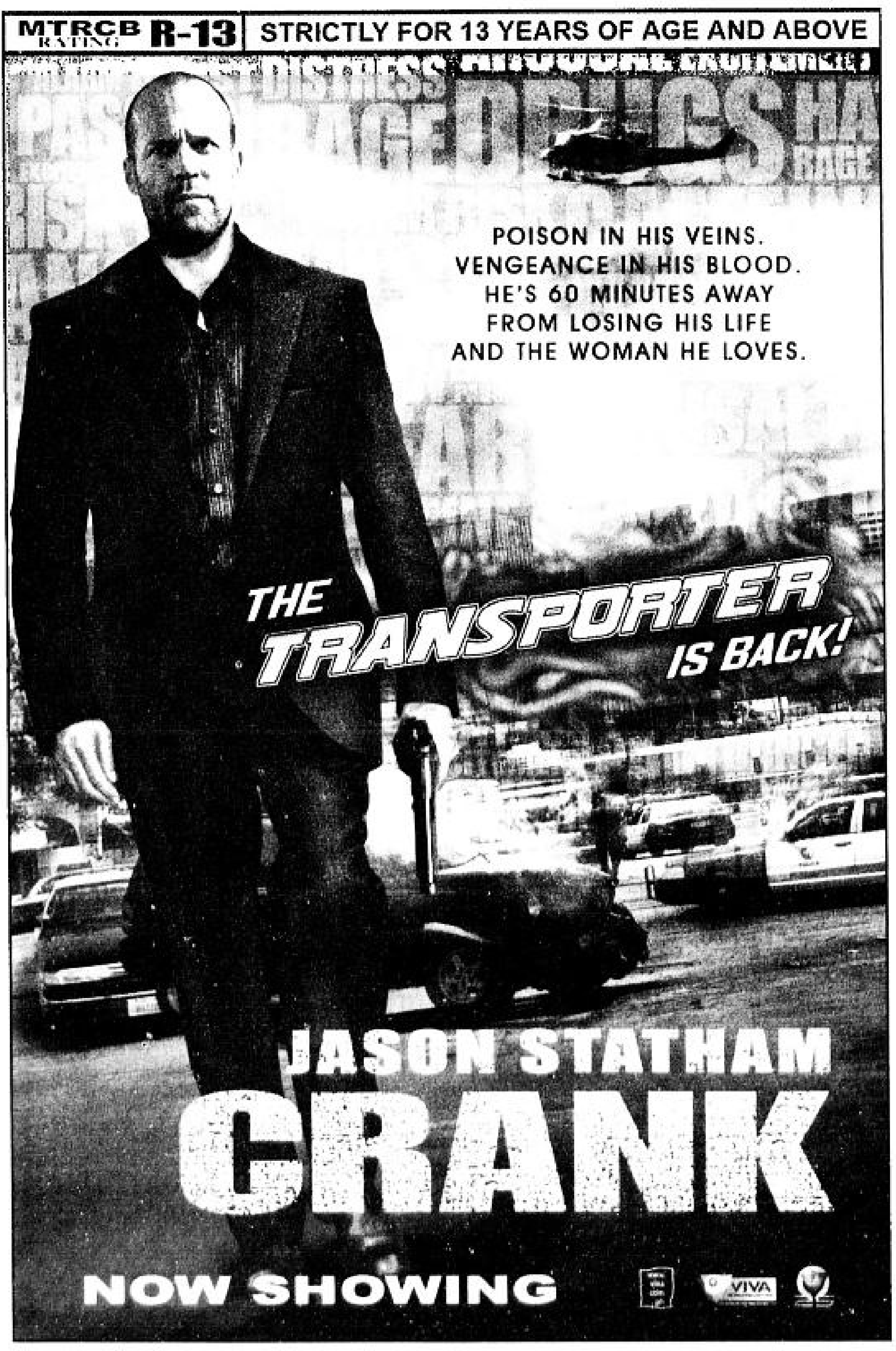

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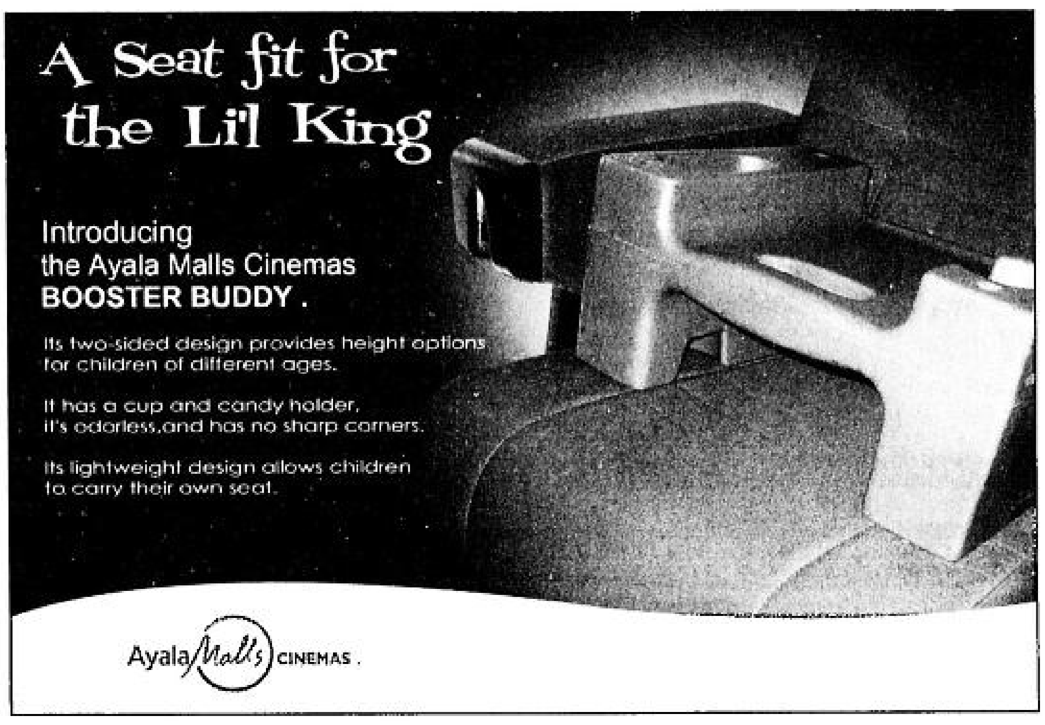

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Alimall 5
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Can't wash away . . .

From page D1

answered rather meekly. "Good clean fun *lang po*." Never thought punks could be so prim and proper.

I had never seen so many kids in black attire, either. Like most of the crowd, the two Bulacan punks were garbed in their best DIY (do it yourself) all-black gear—T-shirts, jeans and jackets with patches of the anarchy symbol, the peace sign and the Sex Pistols.

Had they heard the music of the Pistols, I asked again. "*Opo*," said one. "*Yung banda ni* Sid Vicious," replied the other.

What did they like about punk, I pressed?

"*Ano po, masaya, nakaka*-relate *kami sa* message."

And what was the message?

"*Kahit ano pwedeng sabihin, pati galit sa gobyerno*."

Outside the gate, hundreds of kids thought they'd had enough fun and were walking away to get home—at 11 p.m., too early by rocker standards.

But the darn rain, it simply wouldn't stop and managed to get my pants and feet soggy. I had to find a way to go backstage. Before I could say goodbye to the Bulacan punks, they asked if I could spare P10 so they could buy water. I gave them P20.

Punk's alive

"*Salamat kuya*," they chorused. "Punk's not dead!"

Walking outside, all I could see were more punks huddled in groups under the makeshift sheds provided by the event organizers. "*Kuya*," asked one, "*paano ba umuwi rito papuntang* Biñan?"

The guard at the backstage gate promptly waved me off, saying the mud was too deep for me to walk on. Even cars had tires stuck in the mire, he said.

What to do then?

It was almost midnight when a cab stopped in front me, unloading eight skinny kids, all in black and scurrying to have their fill of the music.

"*Gumarahe na ko sa* Tondo," related the driver, "*di na talaga ko bumibiyahe pag ganito ang ulan. E nakiusap yung mga anak ng kumpare ko, ihatid ko raw sila dito sa* Muziklaban. *Ibang klase talaga pag barkada magkikita-kita. Walang ulan-ulan*."

(Hardboiledeggz, a band from Baguio whose music was described as "progressive emo-metal," topped nine other groups, all regional champions from Metro Manila, northern, central and southern Luzon, to win the top prize of P800,000 in cash, an endorsement deal from Red Horse, a recording contract with Viva Records, brand new mobile phones from Alcatel, apparel from Dickies and shoes from Converse.)

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Chev Chelios is about to begin his morning with an unexpected wake-up call. Groggy, practically unable to move and with a heart that's barely beating, he hears the voice of thug Ricky Verona, who reveals Chev has been prisoned in his sleep and only has an hour to live.
As it turns out, Chev is a hit man who freelances for a major West Coast syndicate. A run of the mill job the night before instead went awry: he let his target slip away in an effort to quit professional killing and start a new life with his girlfriend Eve.
Now, Chev must keep moving to stay alive: the only way to prolong the poison from stopping his heart is to keep his adrenaline flowing. As the clock ticks, Chelios cuts a swath through the streets of Los Angeles, wreaking havoc on those who dare stand in his way. He must rescue Eve from danger, stay two steps ahead of his nemeses and search for an antidote to save his own life.

MTRCB Rating: R-13

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JASON Statham and Amy Smart star in "Crank."

Crazy, crafty 'Crank'

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

YOU HAVE TO ADMIRE THE audacious storytelling chops of co-directors Mark Neveldine and Brian Taylor on the action film "Crank."

The promising duo brings their hard-boiled script to life by mostly making use of visual techniques that incorporate TV ad, comic book and music video sensibilities. The result is a loud, crazy, and attention-grabbing package that doesn't look like the conventional paint-by-numbers action flick. Its plot is inherently simple and dumb, but "Crank" proudly rampages and takes no prisoners.

Its requisite muscle-and-testosterone toughie is played by Jason Statham, who looks, sounds and even acts exactly like previous bad boy/antihero personas. He's just right as the unapologetic, politically incorrect and trigger-happy assassin Chev Chelios.

Can't slow down

Poisoned by a rival, Ricky Verona (Jose Pablo Cantillo), Chev must make his remaining time count by getting his girlfriend Eve (Amy Smart) to safety, while inflicting pain on his tormentors. He needs to keep moving and maintain his adrenaline rush, because he'll die if he even slows down for a few minutes.

Plowing through his enemies and innocent civilians alike, Chev proves to be a scummy character that no one would feel sorry for. He's boorish, masochistic and, ultimately, someone who wouldn't want sympathy. How fitting. He's not entirely rotten, however, as he genuinely cares for Eve. She's there for him too, even when the relationship takes a turn for the bizarre. For Chev to stay alive at one point, they engage in outdoor, exhibitionist intercourse—on a busy Chinatown sidewalk! The script is nuts and unrealistic like that, but that's pretty much par for the course for this shock-dependent fantasy.

Unconventional

The directors play around with special effects that deliberately don't make sense, but look cool, nonetheless. There's a fleeting focus on a pigeon's rapidly beating heart, vividly x-rayed for us to see. In certain scenes, a few words pop up on-screen to emphasize or clarify conversations or unnecessary details. The directing duo also employs unconventional photography methods to spice things up. To segue into a flashback, for example, the color of Statham's face slowly but noticeably sports a saturated orange hue. It gradually reverts back to its normal skin tone when the flashback ends.

Such playful tinkering isn't groundbreaking, but the directors bravely sneak in technical gimmicks and eye-poppers whenever they can. They don't make it sound any different from a typical "killathon," sadly; its dialogue is pretty trite with unending braggadocio. Still, "Crank" is a loony and uninhibited ride that'll shamelessly assault jaded senses.

Aiza Seguerra willing to have a baby—by IC?

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

I ALWAYS HAVE A BLAST WHEN I'M A guest in "Homeboy." My "sister in Christ" **Boy Abunda** really knows how to draw in his guests and audience. In my book, he's the best talk show host because when he asks you a question, you can feel that he's really interested in what your answer will be. Even if he does the show daily, no line nor gesture is ever perfunctory.

Our topic for today's show, which was taped Tuesday, was "My Mom, My Hero." Aside from my gay son IC and myself, other guests were **Aiza Seguerra** and her **Mommy Caring, Geoff Eigenmann** and his mom **Gina Alajar**. Before the cameras rolled, we all had a good laugh because Mommy Caring was insisting that Aiza should give her an *apo* and that she wants the dad to be IC!

Aiza and IC were game about the idea. Being the free spirit that I am, I have no objections, either. Aiza and IC were schoolmates in OB Montessori. Aiza teased IC that she knew even then that he was gay. IC shot back, "What's with child stars like us? Why did we turn out this way? Hahaha..." Gina butt in, laughing: "Excuse me! I was also a child star but I'm normal!"

Kidding aside, Aiza is ready, willing but (yet) unable to bear a child. "*Pagbibigyan ko si* Mommy to make up for all the headaches I gave her," she said. "*Pero* please, once is enough *kasi masakit*!" Even **Chen**, her girlfriend of two years, is all for it.

As for Gina, she gave birth not just once, but thrice. She says that life with her three gorgeous sons is like having three husbands minus the commitment." I was quite surprised at how conservative Geoff is. He told me that, when he gets married, he'll make sure it will be for keeps. He doesn't want *daw* his wife to experience what I went through in my marriage."

Geoff really seems like a one-woman man. He admits that he's dating **Nikki Gil** but "I don't know if she entertains other guys. I don't make her *bawal naman. Basta ako*, exclusive *siya lang*." The brilliant mother-son team moved us all to tears with their impromptu "dying scene."

Catch this heartwarming episode of "Homeboy" at 10:30 a.m. today on ABS-CBN. It will remind you that only our moms will love us not just for better or for worse but for ... ever.

FYI (For Your Indulgence)

Iza Calzado will shed off her "sweet" image in her next film (tentative title is "Singapore Sling") as an escort girl based in Singapore. Many Pinays are into that in the Lion City. Legally, that is.

***

A network insider commented: "Okay si **Piolo, Diether, Sam** and **John Lloyd** to be called Kings in "Star Magic Presents." They all have their own merits in terms of box office appeal and product endorsements. But why **Zanjoe Marudo**? *Hilaw pa siya*! Oh well ... it's almost Christmas *kaya madami nang* ham ... ham actors." Show 'em the beef, Zanjoe!

***

Gerald Anderson still can't believe all the good breaks coming his way. "I'm star-struck *pa rin* when I bump into Piolo and other stars. I used to watch them *lang* on TV." If there's one thing he misses now that he has become an instant matinee idol after "PBB Teen," it's playing basketball daily. Now he's too busy dribbling TV/movie assignments.

***

Here's an official statement from the Kapamilya Network: "We would like to reiterate that ABS-CBN Star Magic continues to support the young actor despite the news about the complaint against our artist **John Wayne Sace**. He did not start the fight and has never been a troublemaker. Perhaps someone should look into the complainant's record to find the real troublemaker." They really look out for their artists like family, huh?

Behind the winners

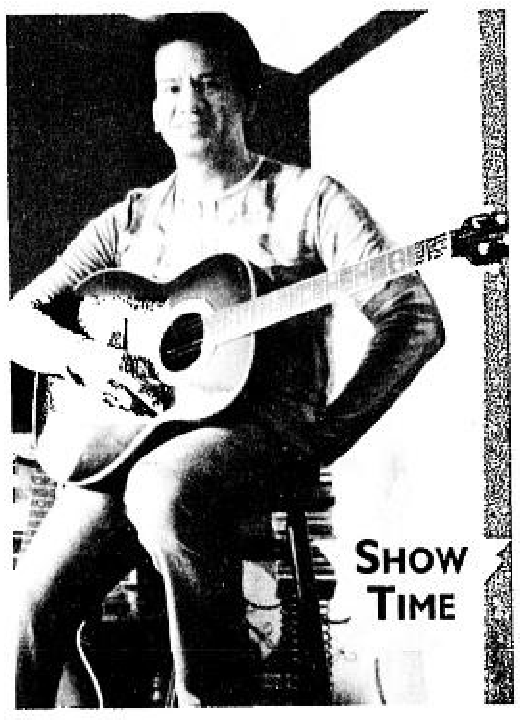
Team Philippines' participation in the 2006 World Championship of Performing Arts in Hollywood has again brought phenomenal results. The country's representatives bagged a total of 86 awards. At the forefront of this conquest is **Ida Henares**, national director for WCOPA Philippines and assistant vice president of the GMA Artist Center. Our delegates are unanimous in saying that Ms. Ida was their beacon. Her nurturing and guidance paved the way for their success. She definitely has an incredible eye for world champions.

New album

Sponge Cola's new album "Transit" (Universal Records) clearly showcases their unlimited musical abilities. It has 12 cuts, including "Bitiw," "Tuliro" and "Pasubali." The band has more than a handful of hits ("Jeepney," "KSLP," etc.), which all went to the No. 1 spot in the MYX charts. They can be romantic or simply pensive; but their songs always convey genuine feelings. Catch them as MYX Celebrity VJs for September.

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com

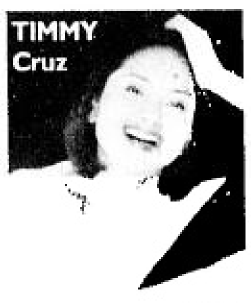
Just a minute, for the world



SHOW TIME

JOEY Generoso of Side A

ROMY HOMILLADA



TIMMY Cruz

JOEY GENEROSO OF Side A; the bands Kamikaze, Stone Free, Natural High and Sunflower Day Camp; and solo artists Elmer Cabahug, Gary Granada, Timmy Cruz, Tanya Diaz, Jana del Prado and JP Mendoza topbill the local launch on Sunday of the worldwide movement "Just A Minute (Jam)."

Jam is a campaign "to create personal peace in a climate of chaos and change," organized by the Brahma Kumaris. The main event for the global launch is set at the Wembley Arena in London and will be led by Robin Gibb of the Bee Gees, comedienne Ruby Wax and actor Clarke Peters.

The Philippine launch via a pop concert will be held at the sunken garden in Greenbelt 3 Makati, from 5 to 7 p.m. Simultaneous events are being mounted in major cities across the world, including Rio, Moscow, Sydney, Johannesburg and Madrid.

SISIG

Jam introduces regular one-minute periods of silence into people's lives, whether one is a businessman, householder, student, executives or public figure. The movement employs multi-media tools such as one-minute spoken meditations for downloading onto computers or podcast, a creative viral campaign, and public programs.

Timmy Cruz is joining the Greenbelt concert as a personal testimony. She just recently took up a regular routine of silencing meditation. She attests, "Taking just a minute each hour will make the following 59 calmer, more focused and more effective."

Robin Gibb says: "Silence has always been an important part of my life and I think it's very much needed in the world today. I need silence to not only make decisions about the creative process but also to get my thoughts together, to make a start."

The sound's the thing

Sisig is a delicious dish of bits and pieces of meat, diced and spiced and served sizzling.

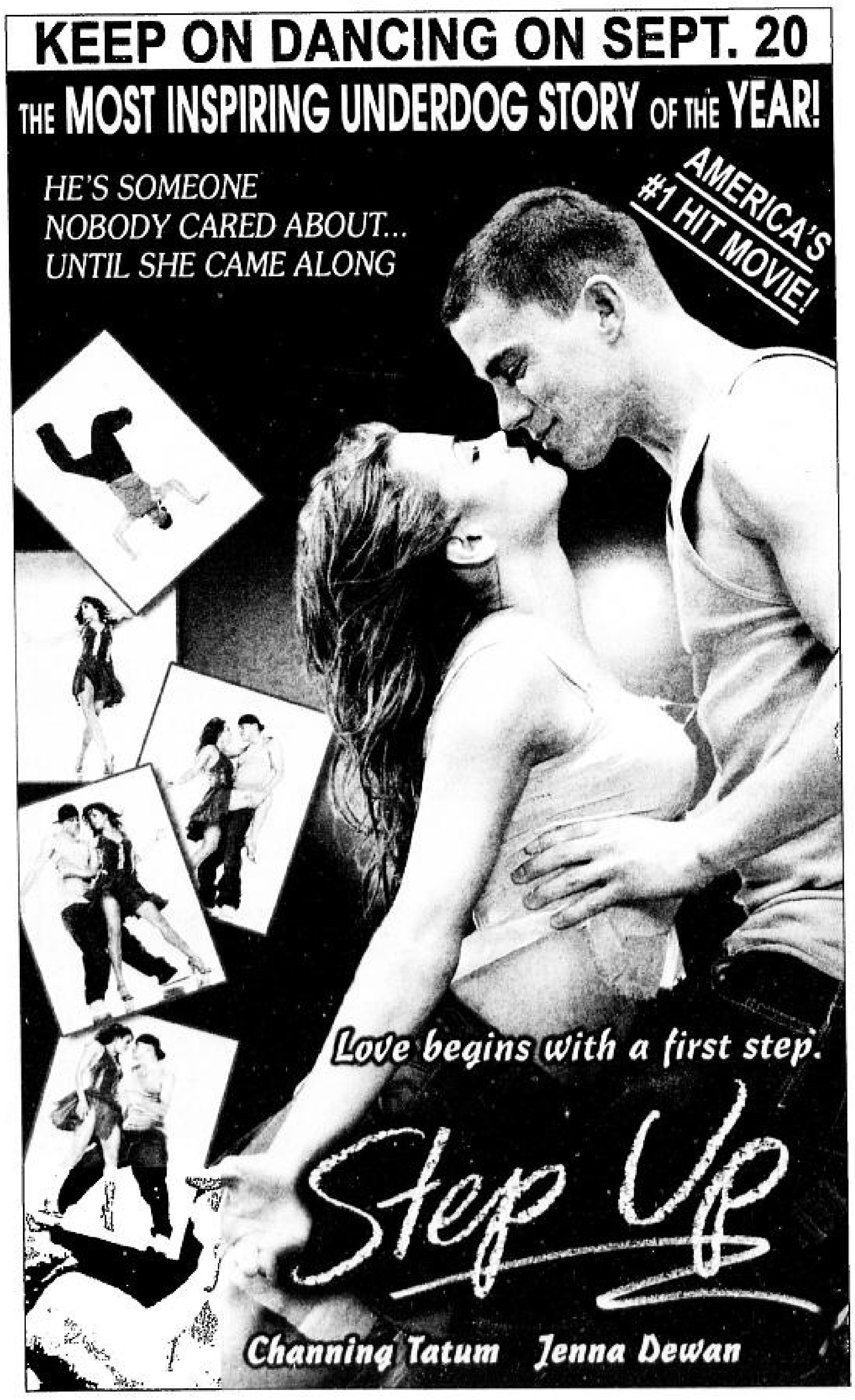
Sisig, the rock back is a group that has put together numerous musical influences and formed one distinct and unique sound all its own, one that its growing number of fans predict to be the next big thing.

Sisig plays Wednesdays at Freedom Bar in Cubao.

Says Juan Carlos "JC" Zozobrado, vocalist: "We've combined the sounds of local bands Wolfgang, Razorback, Rivermaya, The Dawn and international bands Perfect Circle and Led Zeppelin. We also derive from different musical genres, as well as subgenres of rock and roll. But mainly, we're coming from any sound made, any harmony or rhythms, from life itself."

The rest of the band are Cedric "Ced" Solidon on guitars, Ernie Sarmiento Balibago also on guitars, Marie Charisse "Cha" Gascon on bass, and Immanuel Carlo "Carlo" Serrano on drums.

Now on sale is Sisig's third album, "Sunog," whose carrier single is "Hey, Teacher." Call or SMS (0927) 529-7684.



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DOA DEAD OR ALIVE
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE TRANSPORTER"

METRO / A25

Police antidrug unit chief, 7 men sacked for extortion

BUSINESS FRIDAY / B2-1

Audience is now a player in age of digital media

ACROSS / A21

AFP admits strong resistance by Abu Sayyaf

NEWS / A2

Still no job in government for Palparan

LIFESTYLE / E1

Earth Angel: Simple is beautiful

What's in a name? 4,000 Chen Jies just in Shanghai

MAG-ISIP NAMAN KAYO NG BAGO!

SHANGHAI, CHINA—Here's to you, Chen Jie. And you, and you, and you.

The name—surname Chen, given name Jie—is shared by almost 4,000 Shanghainese, topping the list of the city's most

WHAT'S/ A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, September 15, 2006 ★★★ 14 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 279 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Slay raps filed vs Recto in Batangas gov slay try

By Marlon Ramos
Inquirer Southern Luzon
and Alcuin Papa *in Manila*

BATANGAS CITY—MORE THAN THREE months after he narrowly escaped death when two explosions ripped his vehicle, Batangas Gov. Armando Sanchez yesterday filed murder and frustrated murder charges against Vice Gov.

SLAY/ A18

SC to Senate: Show Sabio on Sept. 21

PCGG chair's stance riles Enrile, Gordon

By Armand N. Nocum, TJ Burgonio and Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE SUPREME COURT YESTERDAY GRANTED the petition for a writ of habeas corpus filed by the Presidential Commission on Good Government for its chair, Camilo Sabio, but the latter will have to remain under Senate detention for seven more days.

Emerging from a special en banc session of the tribunal, its spokesperson Ismael Khan announced that it had issued a writ of habeas corpus ordering the Senate to bring Sabio to the court on Sept. 21. He said the writ was served on the Senate late yesterday afternoon.

"The court issued a writ of habeas corpus, and [the Senate is] supposed to 'produce the body' [of Sabio] before the court itself at 1 p.m. on Sept. 21 regardless of whether it is a holiday or not," Khan told the INQUIRER in a phone interview at around 6 last night.

"At the same time, all the respondents are supposed to file their consolidated comments on or before Sept. 20, and all those comments will be heard on oral arguments on Sept. 21," he said.

According to Khan, the high court's move was "unusual" because it set the oral arguments immediately and issued the writ itself instead of forwarding the matter to the Court of Appeals.

Asked about Sabio's fate, Khan said: "In effect, he remains in detention until Sept. 21 because the respondents will have to respond ... In the meantime, things are moving very fast."

After two days in detention, Sabio, 70, faced the senators in a formal inquiry into the alleged losses of government-sequestered corporations. But he stood his ground, vehemently refusing to answer questions on matters concerning the PCGG.

He also vigorously defended

SUPREME COURT / A12

SEN. Richard Gordon (left) wags his finger at PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio (right) during Thursday's hearing on Philcomsat. Gordon and Sabio traded barbs and engaged in a shouting match.

ROGER MARGALLO

Nicole wants gov't lawyers taken off case

By Tarra V. Quismundo and Volt Contreras

THE FILIPINO WOMAN AT THE CENTER of the rape trial of four US Marines has asked that the public prosecutors handling the case be replaced because she has lost confidence in them.

"Nicole" and her mother had earlier walked out of yesterday's hearing even before it could begin at 1 p.m. and held a press conference at Kowloon House at UP Village in Quezon City at 9 p.m.

At the press briefing where her therapist Dr. June Lopez and her private lawyer Evalyn Ursua were present, Nicole said she had handed a letter to Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño earlier in the afternoon requesting the replacement of the team of public prosecutors except for Hazel Valdez.

"*Kaya ko ginawa ito kasi yung* [performance] *nung* Monday *di ko nagustuhan. Kulang yung pagtatanong kay* Smith *para mas lalong tumibay yung kaso. Nasayang yung* chance *na mas lalo sanang tumibay yung kaso* (I'm doing this because I didn't like what happened on Monday. Their questioning of Smith was wanting. They lost a chance to strengthen the case)," she said.

NICOLE/ A13

Sunken tanker overloaded, say probers

By Leila B. Salaverria

PETRON CORP.'S OVERLOADING of the Solar I tanker contributed to its sinking that in turn led to the massive oil spill in Guimaras Strait, according to the Special Board of Marine Inquiry.

The oil spill affected four towns in Guimaras and two towns in Iloilo, contaminating rich fishing grounds, beaches, mangroves, sea-grass beds and seaweed farms.

The SBMI, which conducted a two-week investigation of the sinking, held Petron liable for the overloading. Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza directed the Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) to take appropriate action against the oil company.

The board is only tasked with determining administrative liability for the sinking, but will forward its complete report to the Department of Justice which will determine the criminal and civil liabilities of the parties involved, according to the SBMI chair, Rear Adm. Danilo Abinoja.

Petron said the Solar I was not overloaded when it sank on Aug. 11.

"As far as we are concerned, there was no overloading since we only loaded 98 percent by volume (2.19 million liters of the 2.24 million liters) and 97 percent by weight (2,064 metric tons of the 2,128 MT) of the ship's capacity," Petron said in a statement.

SUNKEN/ A6

BOLANTE'S lawyers Christal Schmidt, Stanley Horn and Judd Azulay leave the Chicago courthouse after attending Wednesday's hearing on his case. The law firm hired by Bolante is reported to be one of the biggest in the United States.

PHOTOS BY MANNY ZAMBRANO/ CHICAGO

NO ASYLUM for JOC-JOC BOLANTE!
JUSTICE for FILIPINO FARMERS!
DEPORT BOLANTE TO THE PHILIPPINES!
AMERICA SHOULD NOT BE HAVEN FOR PLUNDERERS
NO ASYLUM for JOC-JOC BOLANTE!

A HANDFUL of Filipino protesters outside the Chicago courthouse hold up placards opposing the grant of asylum to Bolante in the United States.

US judge rejects Bolante's bail bid

By Philip C. Tubeza

A CHICAGO IMMIGRATION judge yesterday denied former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-joc" Bolante's petition for bail, a Philippine lawyer said.

H. Harry Roque Jr. said Judge George Katsivalis dismissed Bolante's petition after a closed-door hearing at the US federal building at 101 West Congress St. in Chicago.

Roque said that Katsivalis also rejected Bolante's plea to strike off the amicus brief that Roque and other University of the Philippines lawyers filed to oppose Bolante's asylum application. The judge said he would take it "under advisement."

"(Bolante's) petition for bail was not granted. The judge set his next hearing on Sept. 27 but Joc-joc remains in detention. This means the petition was denied," Roque said in a telephone interview from Chicago.

"The trial attorney [from Homeland Security] said that when you are an alien arriving in the US without a valid visa, an immigration judge has no jurisdiction to grant bail," Roque said.

"So the issue here was not whether Bolante should be granted bail, it was whether the court could grant it," he said.

Bolante was arrested on July 7 on his arrival in Los Angeles. He was told that his B1/B2 visa had been canceled by the US Embassy in Manila due to an arrest warrant issued by the Philippine Senate after he snubbed its hearings on the P728-million fertilizer fund scam.

The fund was allegedly used

US JUDGE/ A19

MELO COMMISSION

Esperon calls Ocampo, Casiño 'state enemies'

By Fe Zamora

THE ARMED FORCES OF THE Philippines chief of staff yesterday said some party-list representatives, including Satur Ocampo and Teddy Casiño, were enemies of the state hiding behind the legitimate cover of their organization, Bayan Muna.

Testifying before the commission formed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to look into extrajudicial executions, Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. also said that the AFP's "total war" policy did not include political killings.

Esperon said the New People's Army (NPA) was responsible for the deaths of 843 civilians since Ms Arroyo assumed the presidency in 2001. Leftist groups have reported around 700 political slayings and said the military

ESPERON/ A6

GMA asks Amnesty Int'l to join probe

LONDON—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS INVITED Amnesty International to take a direct hand in the inquiry into the extrajudicial killings under her administration.

The move was an effort to finally resolve questions from the international community regarding her sincerity in putting a stop to what the London-based human rights group called her "tolerance of a climate of impunity."

"Just this morning I asked for a meeting with Amnesty International, and I am very happy that they will help us find experienced investigators who will help the independent commission in its investigation," the President said in her address at a business process outsourcing conference. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

JOAN BONDOC

FORMER Supreme Court Justice Jose Melo smiles at AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon during Thursday's hearing at the IBP Building in Ortigas Center.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Batanes area will experience stormy weather. Rest of Northern and Central Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. Rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/09/14/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

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Second FrontPage

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Still no gov't job for Palparan

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

LONDON (VIA PLDT)—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo, facing vocal concerns from the European Commission on the alarming number of unresolved political killings in the Philippines, is holding off on the appointment of newly retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan to a new post.

Palparan, former commander of the Army's 7th Infantry Division, has been accused by communist rebels of being behind some of these extra-judicial killings.

"We discussed many options. When that happens, it will be announced," said the President when asked about her plans for Palparan in a pool interview with reporters before leaving for London.

The President did not say specifically what position Palparan was being considered for, but Malacañang executives said that it would most likely be in the line of the all-out war against communism.

The controversial Palparan was initially rumored to become the new deputy of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales but Malacañang instead named retired Army Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay Jr., former head of the Southern Luzon Command.

Cabuay, like Palparan, has also been accused of orchestrating the numerous killings of political oppositionists under the Arroyo administration. Both generals deny the charges.

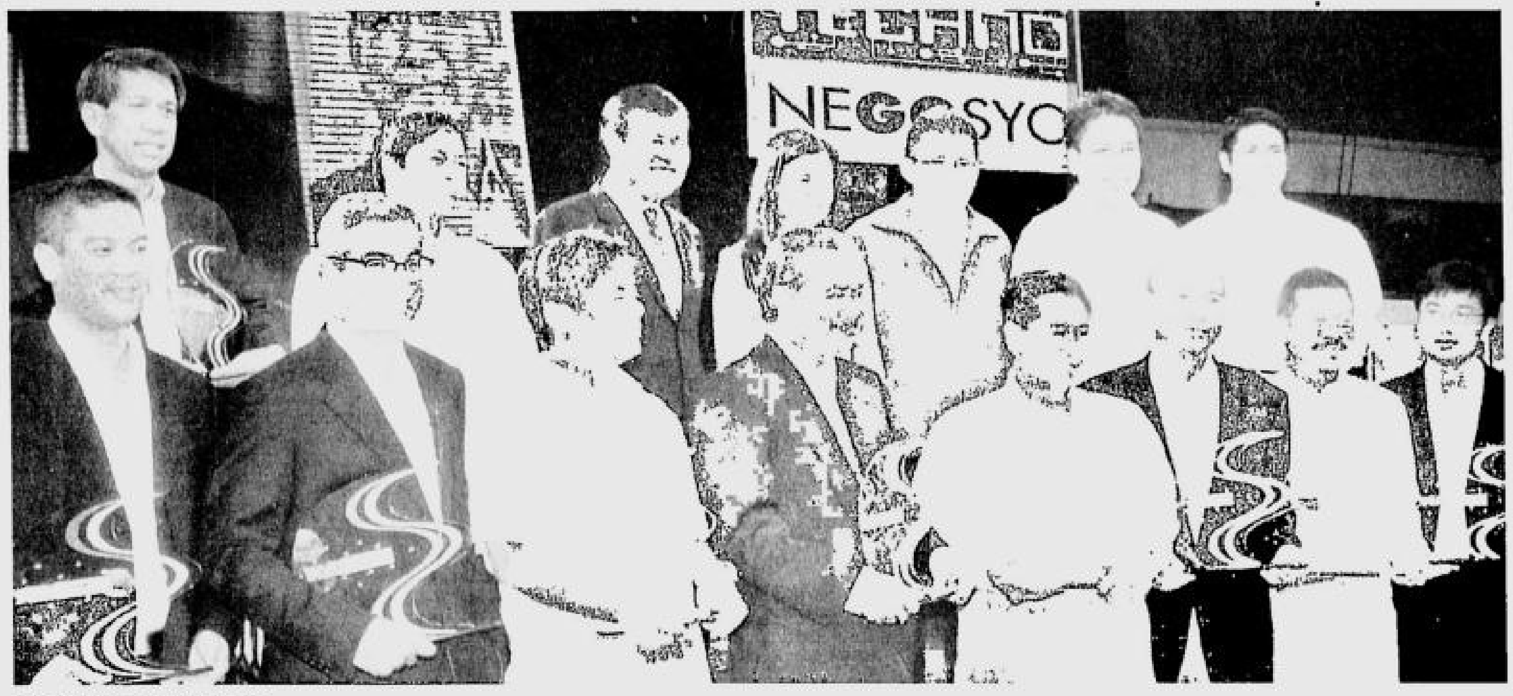
The President said she continues to think highly of Palparan even though he has admitted to being "indirectly responsible" for the extra-judicial killings, noting that his presence in an area alone may have emboldened some residents to take the law into their hands against communist rebels.

In assuaging the concerns of the European Commission on the alarming number of unresolved, politically-motivated killings, the President said, "I told Justice Melo to pursue every path regardless of where it may lead. Any member of the police or military that engages in extra-judicial killings must face the harshest punishment. No one has the right to take the law into their hands and settle a political score through taking a life."

Meanwhile, Presidential Management Staff Arthur Yap intimated that the possible positions being considered for Palparan have been narrowed down to two. He did not identify them, adding only that they had to do with the general's "expertise" in counterinsurgency.

"There is a shortlist but I am not inclined to discuss it or open it to the public, to give the President more latitude in making her choice," Yap told reporters at the Palace.

"She is choosing between two positions," he said. *(With reports from Christine O. Avendaño)*



TECHNO GIANTS

The giants of the technology industry were recognized yesterday at the start of Technonegosyo, the country's biggest technology exposition this year. Presidential Adviser on Entrepreneurship Jose Concepcion III and MDi managing director Myla Villanueva, event co-chair, together with Senate President Manuel Villar and Sen. Mar Roxas, led the awarding ceremony. The Ten Inspiring Technopreneurs are Aloysius "Nonoy" Colayco and son Ben Colayco, Butch Jimenez (representing Manuel Pangilinan), Jaime Zobel de Ayala, Dennis Mendiola, Danny Manayaga, William Torres, Orlando Vea, Gus Lagman (representing Peter Valdes), Joey Gurango and Bill Torres (also representing Dr. Willy Gan, posthumous). TechnoNegosyo, a part of the Go Negosyo series, is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. at the World Trade Center today.

More oil price cuts seen

MOTORISTS CAN EXPECT MORE FUEL price rollbacks in the next few weeks, following a decision from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to maintain production at current levels despite slowing demand.

Raul Concepcion, the Consumer and Oil Price Watch chair, said the decision of the global oil cartel would have a favorable effect on international oil prices, possibly even contributing to their continued softening.

He expressed the hope that the Opec would continue to keep production at 28 million barrels a day, and not reduce output until prices drop to between $50 and $55 a barrel.

He noted that non-Opec members like Russia, the Soviet republics around the Caspian Sea, and Angola were also producing more, a development that could further bring down prices in the months leading up to winter, when prices usually rise.

Iraq is also expected to double its production capacity from the present 2.5 million barrels a day to 4.5 million barrels a day, Concepcion said.

According to Department of Energy data, the regional benchmark Dubai crude dropped drastically to a September average of $63.01 a barrel, from last month's $68.93 a barrel.

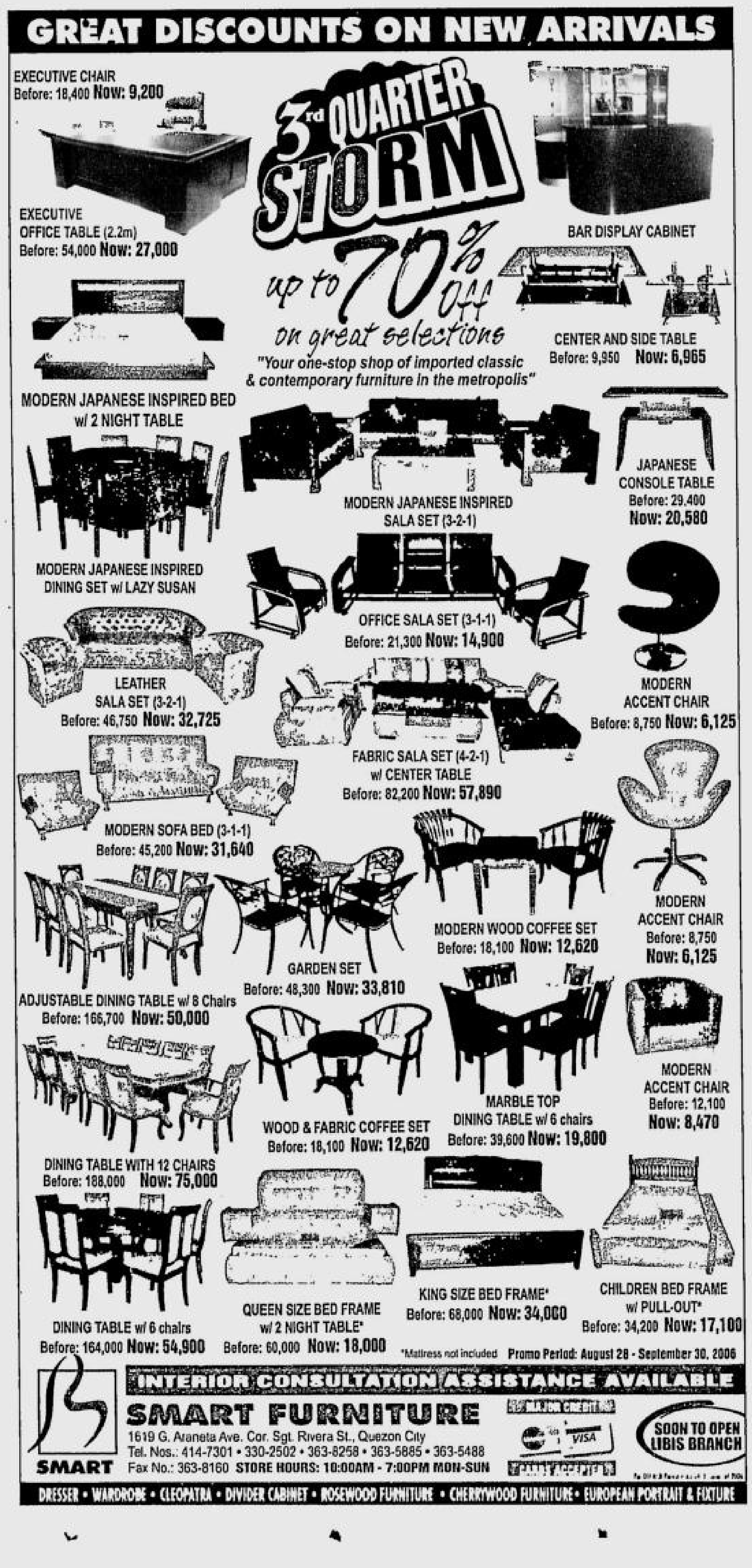
The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products also fell to an average $67.76 a barrel during the period Sept. 1 to 13, from a high of $81.61 a barrel last month.

MOPS-based diesel also declined to $82.17 a barrel in the first 13 days of September, from the $87.42-a-barrel average posted last month.

Over the past few weeks, oil firms have been reducing the prices of their fuel products by between 50 centavos and P1 a liter each time, because of softening world oil prices.

Based on DOE monitoring, premium unleaded gasoline now retails for P41.24 to P44.10 a liter, diesel for P35.35 to P37.55 a liter, and kerosene for P39.19 to P44 a liter.

Abigail L. Ho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MODERN JAPANESE INSPIRED DINING SET w/ LAZY SUSAN

OFFICE SALA SET (3-1-1) Before: 21,300 Now: 14,900

LEATHER SALA SET (3-2-1) Before: 46,750 Now: 32,725

MODERN ACCENT CHAIR Before: 8,750 Now: 6,125

FABRIC SALA SET (4-2-1) w/ CENTER TABLE Before: 82,200 Now: 57,890

MODERN SOFA BED (3-1-1) Before: 45,200 Now: 31,640

MODERN WOOD COFFEE SET Before: 18,100 Now: 12,620

MODERN ACCENT CHAIR Before: 8,750 Now: 6,125

GARDEN SET Before: 48,300 Now: 33,810

ADJUSTABLE DINING TABLE w/ 8 Chairs Before: 166,700 Now: 50,000

WOOD & FABRIC COFFEE SET Before: 18,100 Now: 12,620

MARBLE TOP DINING TABLE w/ 6 chairs Before: 39,600 Now: 19,800

MODERN ACCENT CHAIR Before: 12,100 Now: 8,470

DINING TABLE WITH 12 CHAIRS Before: 188,000 Now: 75,000

DINING TABLE w/ 6 chairs Before: 164,000 Now: 54,900

QUEEN SIZE BED FRAME w/ 2 NIGHT TABLE* Before: 60,000 Now: 18,000

KING SIZE BED FRAME* Before: 68,000 Now: 34,000

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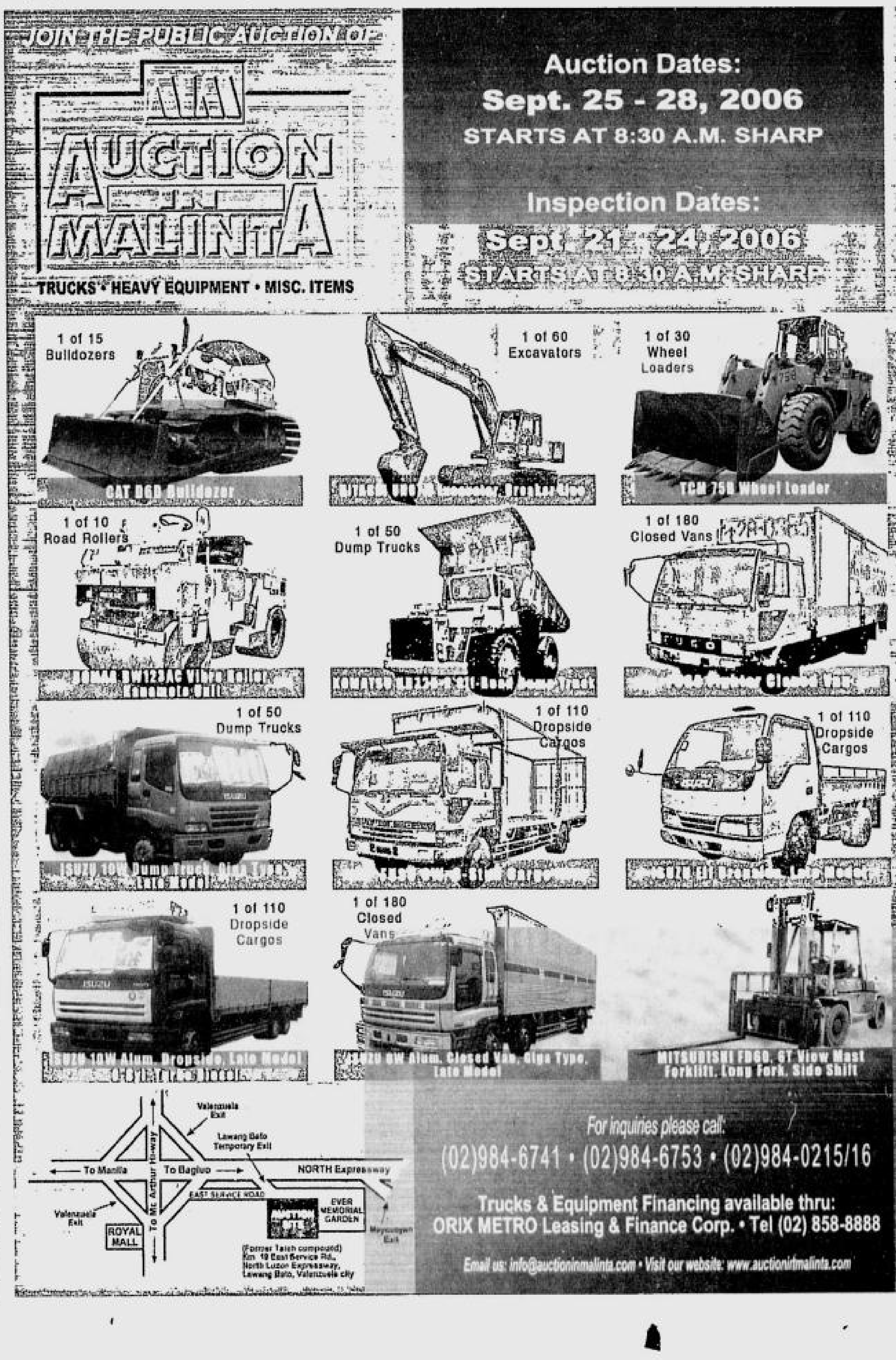
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Ombudsman suspends 3 HS principals

By Norman Bordadora

THE OMBUDSMAN YESTERDAY SUSpended three public high school principals for separate offenses ranging from illegal collection of fees to the listing of ghost student-athletes and the maintenance of a private kindergarten right inside the premises of a government school.

Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez placed on preventive suspension high school principals Eleanor Abisado of Taguig National High School, Helen Aggabao of Olongapo City National High School and Virginia Bermudez of Ramon Avanceña High School.

The Ombudsman found probable cause against Abisado for alleged unauthorized collection of fees, grave abuse of authority, grave misconduct, oppression and dishonesty, said Assistant Ombudsman Mark Jalandoni, who chairs the Ombudsman's Task Force Sapak-Gutierrez's program against graft and corruption in the public school system.

Abisado allegedly pocketed unauthorized fees from students. She also allegedly certified that a senior bookkeeper and two utility personnel at the Taguig school were members of the teaching staff so they could collect benefits that are exclusively for teachers.

Aggabao, on the other hand, is charged with collecting unauthorized school fees and contributions, as well as rental fees from stall owners in the school canteen, without issuing official receipts. She also allegedly charged students P15 an hour for computers that were donated by congressman to the school.

The Olongapo high school principal was also cited for establishing a preparatory school right inside the government high school. The private preschool reportedly charged pupils P6,000 per year and used the services of the high school's teachers.

At the same time, Bermudez was charged with dishonesty, grave misconduct, falsification of public documents and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service. The principal was cited for alleged irregularities in the disbursement of a P96,000 fund given by the city government of Manila to cover the transportation and meal allowances of her school's student-participants in the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

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Magdalo reb eyes Senate

THE ACKNOWLedged leader of the Magdalo rebel soldiers who took over the Oakwood Ayala Premier hotel in July 2003 is "seriously" thinking of running for the Senate.

Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV, who became the face of the Oakwood mutiny, was urged by colleagues and some political parties to make a go for the 2007 senatorial elections since the criminal and court-martial cases of the 97 "Magdalo" junior officers has been dragging for the last three years.

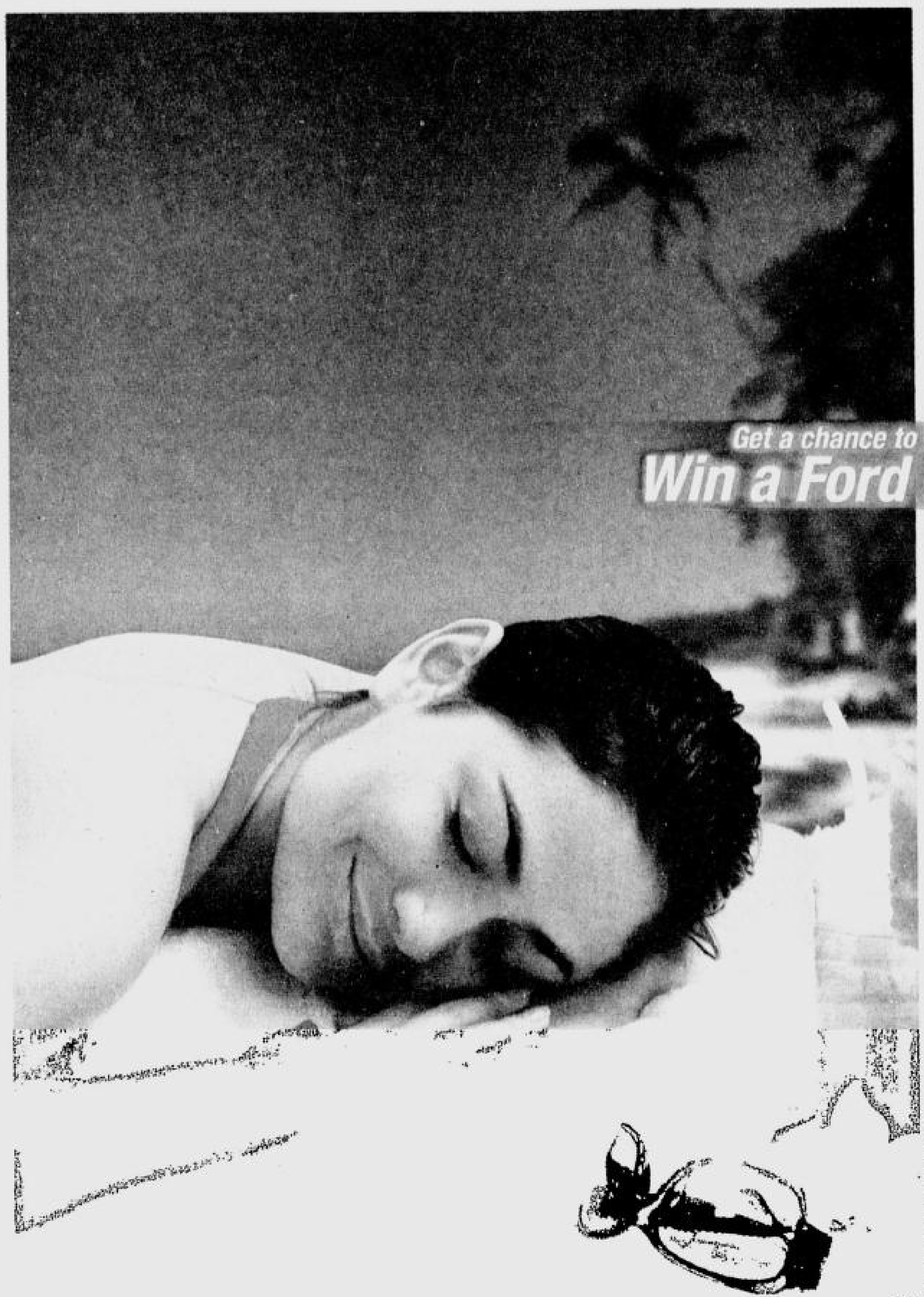
"He is seriously considering running for the Senate in 2007," his lawyer Reynaldo Robles told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"The reason is that some of his colleagues think this may be a good forum for them to continue their fight for reforms in the military and to improve the lot of the Filipino people. There have also been a number of representatives from political parties inviting him (to their slate)," he added.

"He has not made a decision. He's consulting with colleagues and friends," Robles stressed.

For the 35-year-old Trillanes, among the top graduates of the PMA, a decision means giving up his military career for good.

Dona Pazzibugan



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Ladlad: Gay group seeks party-list status

By Jerome Aning

THE COUNTRY'S GAY COMmunity makes its formal bid to enter mainstream politics today as a national organization of lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders (LGBT) registers to join the party-list system that would allow it to participate in next year's elections.

The group Ang Ladlad will be joining about 50 party-list organizations that have registered with the Commission on Elections ahead of the Saturday deadline.

Under the Constitution and Republic Act No. 7941 (the Party-List System Act), registered party-list groups that garner at least two percent of all votes cast are entitled to one member in the House of Representatives. The more votes a party-list group gets, the more representatives it is entitled to.

Strength of the LGBT vote

Marginalized or under-represented sectors, organizations and parties that do not have well-defined constituencies may join the party-list system.

Ang Ladlad chair Danton Remoto, noted gay rights crusader and English professor at Ateneo de Manila University, will lead the filing for inclusion in the party-list system at the Comelec office in Intramuros at noon.

"This is the first time that a national organization of LGBT Filipinos will file their intention to participate in the political exercise. We will show them the strength of the LGBT vote," Remoto said.

He estimated that of the 43.5-million registered voters nationwide, about 10 percent were lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

End discrimination

Ang Ladlad has set up chapters and alliances all over the country and firmed up its demographics and database, Remoto said.

"We are ready, willing and able to join this political exercise and show the country how far we have [come] to end discrimination and homophobia in the land. Goethe said there is nothing more powerful than an idea-whose time has come," he said, referring to Johann Wolfgang Goethe, the 18th century German poet and philosopher.

Equal rights

Ang Ladlad is batting for an anti-discrimination bill that would give LGBT Filipinos equal rights and opportunities in employment, education, business and government services.

It has also vowed to work for the repeal of the Anti-Vagrancy Law that unscrupulous authorities use to harass gay people.

The group also wants to set up microfinance and livelihood projects for poor and physically challenged LGBT Filipinos, as well as centers where old and neglected LGBTs could be cared for.

One direction

The centers, to be set up in key cities, would also offer legal aid and counseling, as well as information about LGBT issues, HIV-AIDS and reproductive health.

Ang Ladlad also advocates support for LGBT-related and -friendly businesses.

"The platforms of Ang Ladlad are like laser beams—clear and focused only in one direction. We aim to restore our pride and dignity as LGBT Filipinos as well as give ourselves a chance to lead kinder and gentler lives," Remoto said.

Among groups that have successfully joined the party-list system are labor, peasant, fisher folk, urban poor, indigenous communities, the elderly, handicapped, women, youth, veterans, overseas workers and professionals' organizations.

Imee on showbiz bets: Not for the Senate, please

By Philip C. Tubeza

LET THEM RUN IF THEY SO CHOOSE. AND if they're capable.

Ilocos Norte Rep. Imee Marcos yesterday said that she saw nothing wrong with actors and actresses running for public office "especially if they're qualified and can serve their constituents."

Marcos mentioned in particular showbiz personality Kris Aquino. Jumping into the controversy about showbiz people taking advantage of their popularity to win votes, Marcos said former President Aquino's daughter should be allowed to run for the Senate in the 2007 elections.

She did not however go so far as to endorse Aquino, merely saying that Filipino citizens, including showbiz personalities, had the right to run for public office.

"What's wrong if (TV host) Boy Abunda decides to run? (Actors) Kris, Sharon (Cuneta), Goma (Richard Gomez), Susan (Roces) and Paolo (Bediones) could run for the Senate as long as they can fulfill their role as legislators," Marcos said in a statement.

But, she said, that if actors and actresses who wanted to join the Senate race next year did not have what it takes to be competent legislators, then they better just stay in the sidelines.

"The problem is there are many actors who want to run but they do not have the (necessary ability). Look at some of the senators who are actors. You might not notice it, but some of them just remain mum when there are discussions on the floor," Marcos said.

She said certain showbiz personalities shone in politics, naming as examples actors Rogelio dela Rosa and Vilma Santos, comedians Chiquito, Cita Astals, Anjo Yllana, and Isko Moreno.

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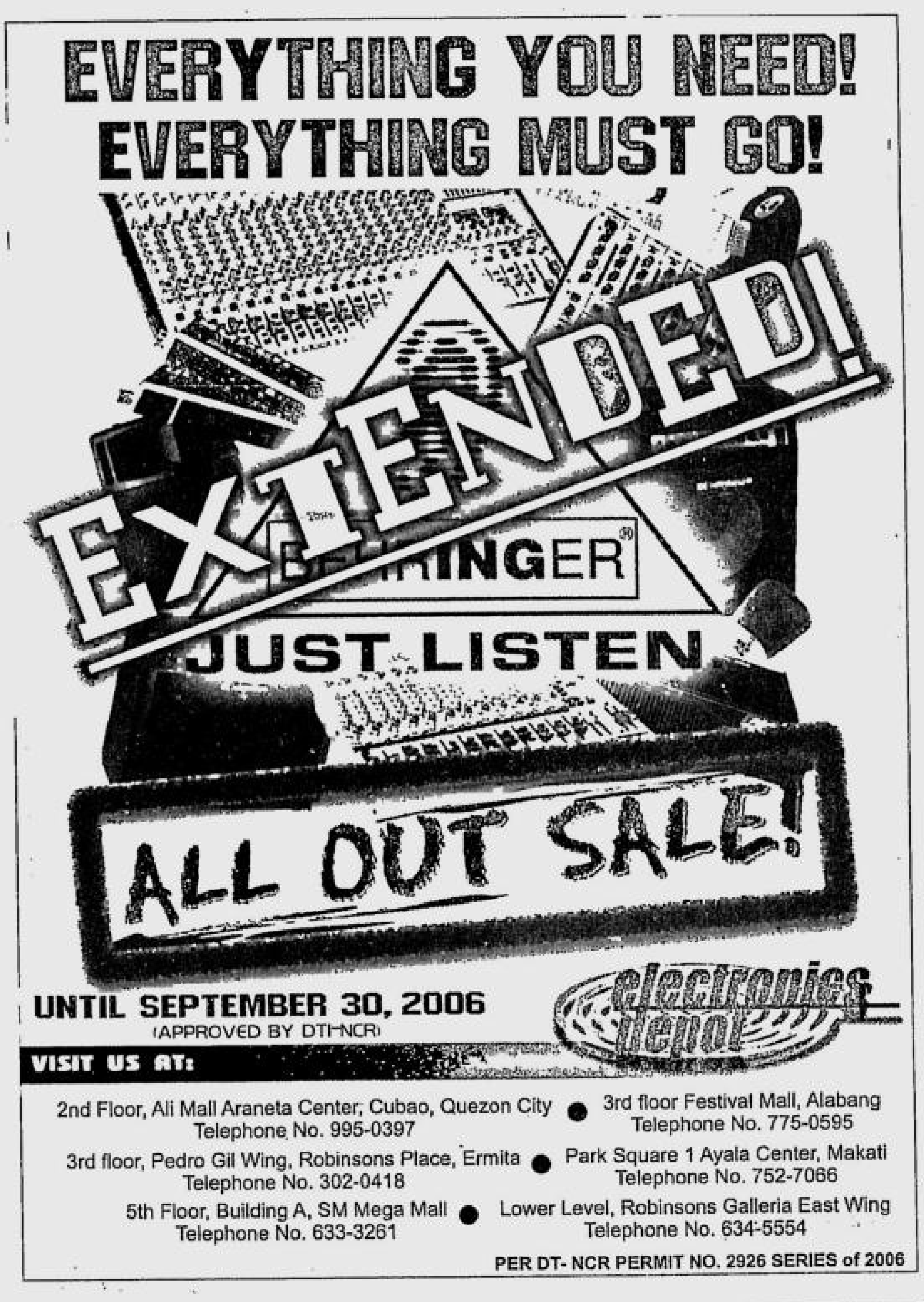

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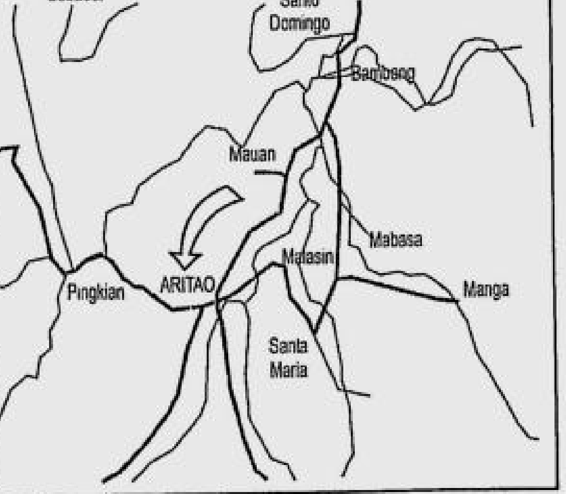


Enrile chairmanship of human rights committee raises eyebrows

By TJ Burgonio

SEN. JUAN PONCE Enrile's chairmanship of the Senate committee on justice and human rights has created a stir in the Senate minority bloc which claims not to have been consulted and raised a howl from militant groups which said Enrile was a "patent human rights violator."

On Tuesday night, Enrile assumed the committee chairmanship without fanfare on a motion by Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan to nominate him as a replacement for administration Sen. Joker Arroyo.

Arroyo temporarily took over the chairmanship of the committee from Pangilinan at the start of the third regular session.

But on Wednesday night, Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. disputed Pangilinan's claim that the minority was consulted on the nomination. He said the change of committee chairmanship was done without the approval of the minority.

Sen. Franklin Drilon rose to explain that Enrile's election was the action of the majority and moved that the matter be put to rest.

Arroyo said he saw no problem in his giving up the committee which he no longer wanted to chair and letting Enrile take over.

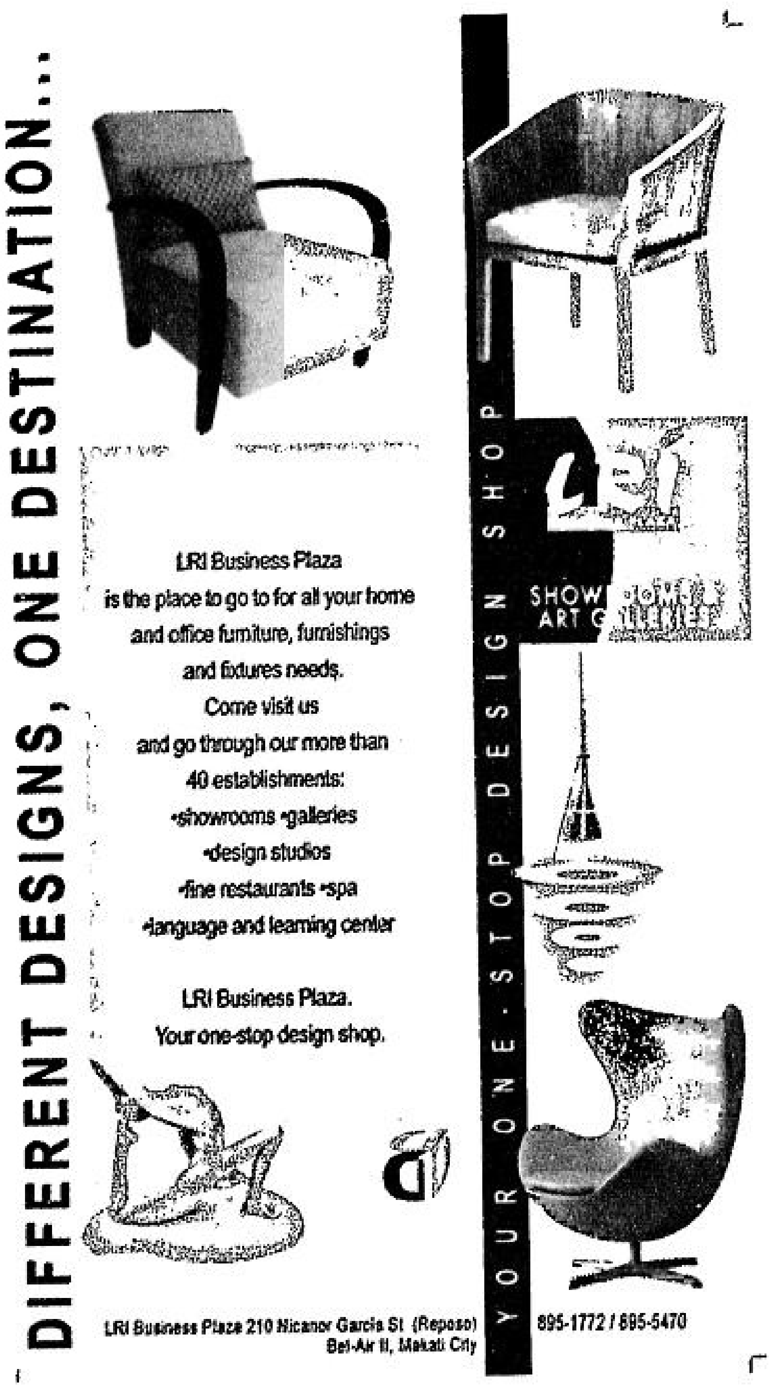
Pimentel said that while it was true that it was the majority that decides who should chair a committee, it would have been good if the minority bloc was allowed a say on the matter.

"A certain sensitivity would have been good for the Senate as an institution," he said.

The Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas protested Enrile's election, warning that it would jeopardize the Senate investigation into the killings of leftist activists and the alleged role of retired Army Gen. Jovito Palparan.

"He is the antithesis of justice and he should not occupy the position. The committee will have no moral ascendancy to summon butchers like Palparan if Enrile is its head," said KMP spokesperson Carl Ala.

Ala said that Enrile, who served as the defense and justice minister of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and is believed to have signed orders for the arrest and detention of critics of the regime, was a "patent human rights violator" and "one of the architects of Marcos' martial rule."



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Sunken tanker overloaded, say probers

From page A1

"We have meters at our refinery to ensure that the proper volume is loaded," Virginia Ruivivar, Petron public affairs manager, said.

Ruivivar said Petron was ready to face any charges. "We are fully transparent and we are confident that the facts will bear us out."

Petron chartered the Solar I and loaded it with bunker fuel oil at its refinery in Limay, Bataan. The oil was supposed to be delivered to Zamboanga del Sur.

"Petron is liable for overloading of industrial fuel oil (IFO) thereby causing instability of the vessel and rendering it unseaworthy for the voyage," said Mendoza, who read the board's findings at a press conference at the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) yesterday.

The board found Sunshine Maritime Development Corp., owner of the Solar I, administratively liable for "completely disregarding all mandated regulations, policies and requirements for seaworthiness of the vessel" and other tasks needed to ensure its stability.

It also found the vessel's captain, Norberto Aguro, administratively liable for not having the necessary training to handle oil tankers, for making an erroneous decision to set sail from Guimaras despite the bad weather, and for failing to ensure the vessel's seaworthiness by showing "a disabling lack of knowledge" of the safety provisions of Marina and the International Maritime Organization.

Aguro's lapses contributed to the vessel's sinking, according to the SBMI report.

Suspend owner and captain

Mendoza recommended that Sunshine Maritime and Aguro be suspended "indefinitely" while parallel investigations of the tanker's sinking were ongoing.

He also directed Marina to file the appropriate charges against Sunshine Maritime and Aguro.

Marina and the PCG were found to have committed lapses in the performance of their duties of ensuring compliance with safety regulations, according to the SBMI.

Mendoza will create an independent maritime commission to look into the agencies' institutional and individual lapses.

Abinoja said the overloading of the Solar I was just one of the causes of the vessel losing its reserved buoyancy, or the upward force needed to float, which in turn was among the factors that led to its sinking.

The two other causes of the sinking were the vessel's loss of residual stability, or its ability to remain upright, and Aguro's incompetence, bad judgment and lack of knowledge.

Overloaded by 150 tons

The Solar I was found to be overloaded when the board noticed that it left Bataan with a draft of 5.1 meters, when it was only supposed to have a draft of 4.85 meters.

Draft refers to the distance between the bottom of the tanker and the portion that is level with the water line. An increased draft indicates a heavier load.

Abinoja said the tanker was overloaded by approximately 150 tons, but this was not all due to the overloading by Petron. The 150 tons included other factors, like the lubricants and fuel of the ship.

Petron was found to have overloaded the tanker because it was only supposed to fill it up to 98-percent capacity, but computations showed it loaded the Solar I up to 98.7-percent capacity, according to Abinoja.

The tanker also lost its reserve buoyancy after it was allowed by Marina to load more weight compared to that allowed by private classification society Bureau Veritas.

The board earlier found that the Bureau Veritas' recommended load line was 1,220 millimeters, but the Marina-approved certificate allowed the Solar I had a 700-mm load line. The lower the load line, the more weight the vessel could carry.

Marina earlier defended its approved load line, saying it was within allowable limits.

The SBMI also found that the compartments in the front of the vessel were filled with approximately 75 tons of seawater, while the top deck was filled with about 200 tons of seawater, thereby increasing the load on the tanker and contributing to its sinking.

Triangular hole

As for the triangular hole on the port bow found by a remote-operated vehicle, Abinoja said the hole had allowed water to enter one of the compartments. Thus, the hole was also a "contributory factor" to the sinking, but not its main cause.

The Solar I lost its ability to remain upright and listed on its starboard because of bad weather due to the southwest monsoon and the "probable" flooding of two of its ballast tanks, which are used to balance the vessel.

Mendoza said there was no "specific" evidence to indicate that the Solar I was involved in oil pilferage or the unauthorized off-loading of oil from the tanker to another vessel.

The possibility of pilferage cropped up earlier when the triangular hole, which could have been caused by another vessel hitting the tanker, was found, and an open and empty cargo oil tank aboard the Solar I was discovered.

Rerouting

Because of the sinking of the Solar I that caused a massive oil spill, the SBMI recommended the following:

- Reroute tankers away from coastlines to lessen the chance that they will affect coastal areas should they sink.
- Put up a real-time tracking system to monitor the movements of tankers and prevent oil pilferage.
- Deploy tugboats, salvage vessels and oil pollution equipment for quick response to maritime incidents.
- Modernize the PCG to improve its oil spill response capability.
- Establish an oil spill liability trust fund within the PCG.
- Require all tankers to be double-hulled and improve their construction. *With a report from Riza T. Olchondra*

Esperon calls Ocampo ...

From page A1

and police were behind them. The INQUIRER has listed 247 assassinations.

The five-member commission headed by retired Supreme Court Justice Jose Melo held its second hearing amid reports that Finland and Spain were sending teams to monitor the spate of killings in the country.

The presence of foreign monitoring teams at the invitation of the Philippine government should "erase misconceptions that the government is not doing anything significantly to cope with the situation," Melo said.

During the hearing, an INQUIRER report was read to Esperon. In it, retired Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan was quoted as saying that party-list groups were nothing more than communist fronts and that Casiño and Ocampo were "enemies of the state."

Esperon was asked if Palparan's view was shared by the entire AFP. Esperon said that he considered the Communist Party of the Philippines, the NPA and the National Democratic Front as "enemies of the state."

"We are a democratic society and they are trying to overthrow the democratic system through violent means," Esperon said.

He said that while leftist organizations, such as Bayan, were not enemies of the state, some of their members belonged to the CPP-NPA-NDF, "conveniently hiding behind the legitimate cover."

If Palparan had tagged Ocampo an "enemy of the state," Esperon said this was based on Ocampo's membership in the CPP-NPA in the 1970s. "He was prompted by Ocampo's past," Esperon said.

Palparan retired on Monday as commander of the 7th Infantry Division. Called a "butcher," he has been accused of engaging in political killings.

Reading materials

Esperon brought copies of military manuals on human rights, standard rules of engagement, protection of noncombatants, rules of behavior in combat and the military code of ethics and said they were reading materials for soldiers and officers.

"The Armed Forces unconditionally abide and respect human rights. We abhor summary killings," Esperon said in his opening statement. He said the military had proof that NPA guerrillas were behind the political executions.

Under fire from human rights groups here and abroad, Ms Arroyo created the Melo Commission last month to look into the killings.

Barely scratching surface

"We are barely scratching the surface," Melo said, describing the pace of the hearings. He set another hearing on Monday for Esperon. Palparan is to be heard on Tuesday.

Esperon was the first military official called by the Melo Commission since it started its inquiry on Tuesday.

The first "witness" was Philippine National Police Deputy Director Avelino Razon, head of Task Force Usig, earlier tasked with looking into the killings of journalists and political activists.

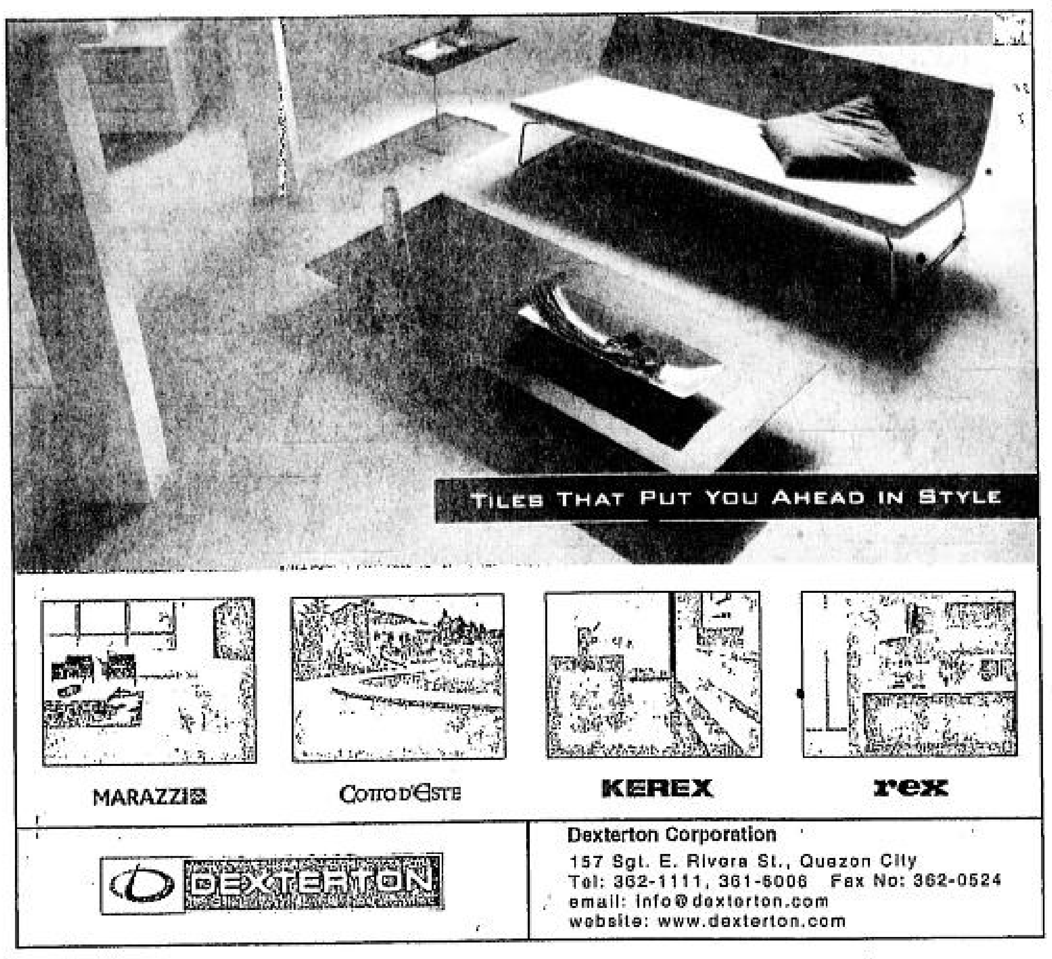
Also yesterday, the NDF said the European Commission's expression of concern over the series of political killings showed that Ms Arroyo's trip to Europe had turned into a "tour of shame."

Not credible

Luis Jalandoni, chair of the NDF panel, said the composition of the Melo Commission, a supposedly independent body formed to look into the killings of leftist activists and journalists, and Task Force Usig had failed to dampen the criticisms.

"These are not credible as independent fact-finding bodies since they are clearly taking their cues from [Ms Arroyo]," Jalandoni said in a statement.

"Her invitation to private individuals or impartial bodies from abroad falls flat on its face. It is another vain attempt to deceive," he added. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*



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'SHOE TIME' AT NAIA

Pilot suspended for airport flap

A QANTAS AIRWAYS FLIGHT TO Australia from the Philippines was delayed after two of its pilots refused to remove their shoes as part of an antiterrorism security check at Ninoy Aquino International Airport, prompting the airline to suspend one of them, officials said Thursday.

The pilots on the Manila-Sydney flight late Tuesday refused to comply with the security regulation, said Chief Supt. Andres Caro, head of the police Aviation Security Group at Naia.

"They were arguing that they were the pilots of the plane and they were not a threat, but who knows the face of a terrorist?" Caro said. "We are implementing what is being implemented consistently for everybody."

He said the pilots later relented when security officers insisted on the check.

John Borghetti, Qantas executive general manager, said in a statement from Sydney that the chief pilot was barred from flying while an investigation was under way. An airline spokesperson said the flight was delayed 22 minutes.

"If it is good enough for the (Australian) prime minister (John Howard), the treasurer (Peter Costello), the Qantas chief executive officer (Geoff Dixon) and me to take off their shoes at security screening points, it is good enough for our pilots," Borghetti said.

"All security issues are taken very seriously at Qantas. This matter is the subject of a full investigation, and the chief pilot has been stood down while the investigation is under way," Borghetti said, adding that appropriate action would be taken once the probe was completed.

Caro said the mandatory removal of shoes for all passengers, airport workers and airline staff at the final pre-departure security check was among the new security measures, in addition to prohibiting liquids and gels as hand-carry items, at the country's airports.

This after British police said they foiled an attempt to bomb flights to the US using liquid explosives and a supposed antiterrorism expert was able to sneak bomb components onto a Philippine domestic flight last month.

The expert, Samson Macariola, has since changed his story and denied bringing explosive materials on board a Manila to Davao flight and back.

An earlier news report said the Qantas pilots had balked at removing their shoes after complaining that the airport terminal's floor was dirty and there were no chairs for them to sit on to put their shoes back on. Airport personnel reportedly cleaned the floor and the pilots complied with the security requirement. *With an AP report*

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Gov't working to make Naia3 'safe and sound'

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE GOVERNMENT WILL MAKE SURE THAT the Ninoy Aquino International Aiport's terminal 3 will be "safe and sound" to the public when it finally opens in six to eight months, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza said yesterday.

Mendoza said authorities were working out a construction work agreement with the Japanese-based Takenaka, the main contractor for the facility, now that the government has taken over the terminal after it paid early this week the P3 billion in initial compensation to the Philippine International Air Terminals Co., (Piatco), the builder of the airport.

The agreement will pave the way for the completion of the construction of the terminal so that it could prepare for its commercial operations, he told reporters at the Palace.

Mendoza said it would cost around $6 million to complete the construction of the terminal as well as repair for the ceiling that collapsed in March this year.

Airport integrity

"We're conducting intrusive inspection to determine the structural integrity of the airport," he said. "We'll see to it that the structure is safe and sound before we open it for commercial operations."

Mendoza said when the ceiling caved in at the terminal, the government did not allow Takenaka to do repairs without an inspection of the total structure.

"They (Takenaka) volunteered to (do the) repair without cost to the government but we did not agree because what we want is not just a repair of the fallen ceiling but a determination of whether the airport is structurally sound," the transportation secretary said.

As these construction and repair activities are going on, Mendoza said the Pasay city regional trial court had named three valuators to determine the actual cost of the terminal.

The valuators would hire international appraisers and inspectors and submit their assessment to the court, which in turn will determine the just compensation to be given Piatco.

Mendoza said that the government intend to initially acquire ownership of the airport and later "we might opt to privatize and if ever we opt to privatize, all the expense the government has incurred will be part of the bid price."

GMA advised not to use new terminal yet

By Nikko Dizon

THE AIRPORT AUTHORITY IS NOT ADVISing President Macapagal-Arroyo to use the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) Terminal 3 when she arrives from her European trip on Monday.

"It's not advisable. It would be very risky for the President," Oscar Paras, senior assistant general manager of the Manila International Airport Authority (Miaa), told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday.

Paras said the Miaa had advised the Office of the Press Secretary that it was not a good idea for the President to use the Naia 3 facility yet, taking into consideration safety concerns.

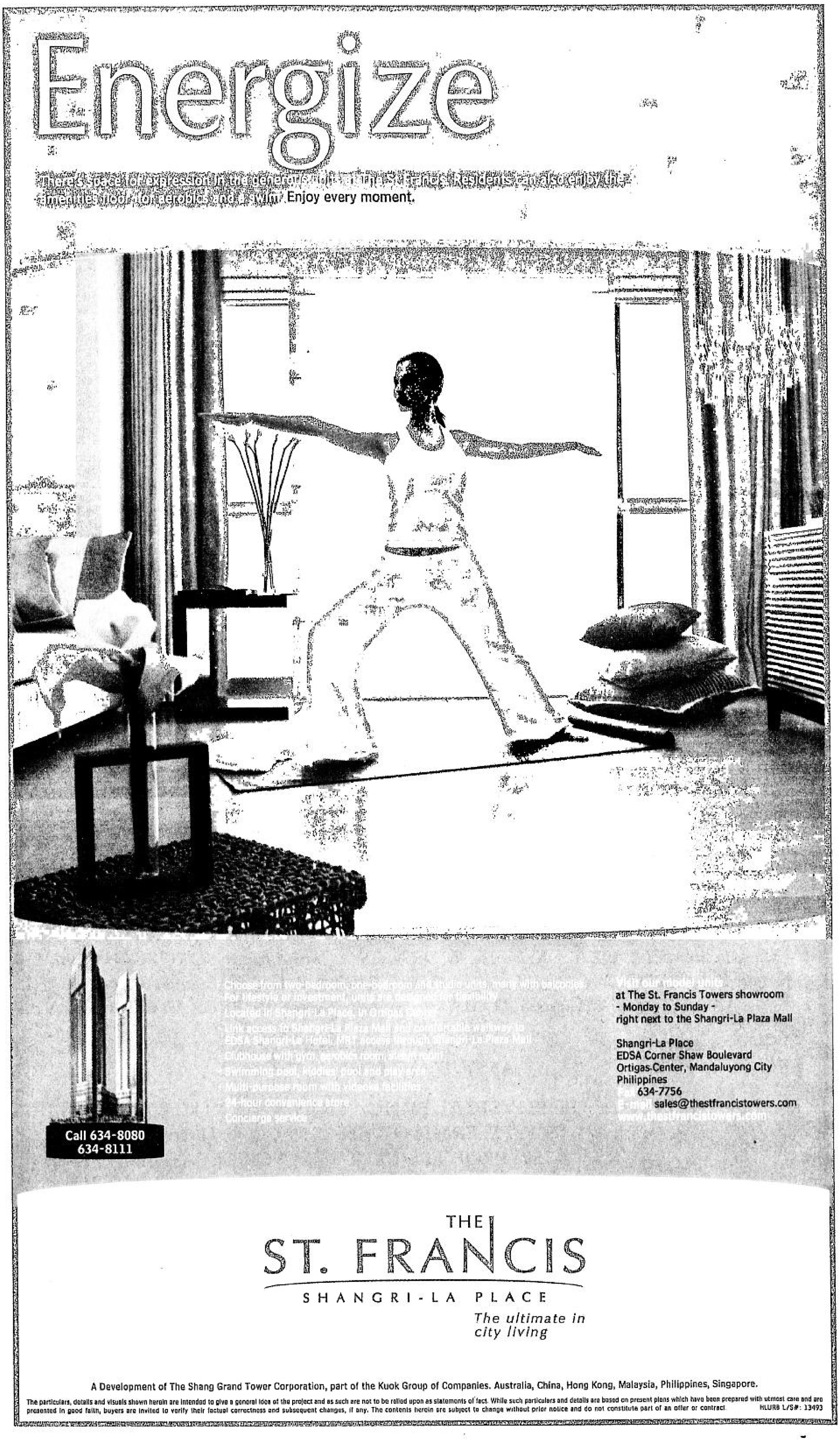
"We only learned that the President said she wanted to use Naia 3 from news reports. There was actually no official communication to us from Malacañang," Paras said.

Paras said the President's special Philippine Airlines (PAL) flight would dock at the Naia Centennial Terminal on the early hours of Sept. 18.

Last March, a portion of the ceiling at the Naia 3 arrival area collapsed, leaving a gaping hole.

Paras said that the ceiling had yet to be repaired as the Miaa first wants to assess the condition of the rest of the similarly-built ceiling at Naia 3.

The ceiling collapse prompted the Miaa to postpone its planned "rolling opening" of Naia 3 last summer.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UNENDING GRACE

DOH reports 1,500 new dengue cases

By Jerome Aning

NEARLY 1,500 NEW CASES OF DENGUE fever and 21 related deaths have been reported throughout the country in the past week, the Department of Health reported yesterday.

Dr. Eric Tayag, head of the DOH's National Epidemiology Center, said the 1,447 new cases bring to 14,915 the total number of dengue infections this year. Of this, at total of 188 died of the disease.

The department raised its alert level on dengue last week and placed under watch several areas in the country where they have noted a rising number of cases.

Also yesterday, DOH Secretary Francisco Duque III visited state-run Amang Rodriguez Memorial Hospital in Marikina City, where two patients, including a 6-year-old child, died and 16 new cases were reported.

Duque will visit other hospitals to inspect the so-called "dengue express lanes" he ordered set up to deal with those afflicted by the mosquito-borne disease.

In recent days, the Rizal towns of Cainta, Taytay and Morong, as well as the cities of Taguig, Makati and Mandaluyong in Metro Manila were declared dengue "hotspots."

Tayag advised parents to take their children to a doctor quickly if they suspect dengue. If the symptoms include fever, they should be given paracetamol and not aspirin, which has a negative side effect on dengue sufferers, he said.

The dengue virus is transmitted by an infected female mosquito classified as Aedes aegypti, which usually bites in the morning or late in the afternoon.

The dengue-carrying mosquito often lays her eggs in artificial, rather than natural containers, that have "fairly clean" water and are located around human habitation. "Fairly clean" means rainwater where plant debris have accumulated, or stored water in uncovered containers.

Palace medal for RP envoy to Gulf council

AMBASSADOR AMABLE R. AGUILUZ V, THE special envoy to the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), was conferred the Presidential Medal of Merit by President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang on Sept. 5.

The Presidential Medal of Merit is the highest award bestowed on those who have brought honor to the country through international recognition in the fields of literature, the arts, entertainment, the sciences, international diplomacy and public service.

The President said Aguiluz was cited for his tireless efforts in promoting the welfare of overseas Filipino workers in the Middle East and his contributions to the improvement of the country's relations with the Gulf states.

In 2004, Aguiluz successfully worked for the lifting of the ban on OFWs in Oman. With the ban lifted, over 35,000 OFWs are now gainfully employed in that country.

Because of his friendship and influence with the GCC heads of state, Aguiluz was able to work behind the scenes to secure the release of OFWs Angelo de la Cruz and Robert Tarongoy from their Iraqi abductors.

He was also instrumental in securing the release of 23 Filipino seamen jailed in the United Arab Emirates in 2003.

With his personal funds, he raised the blood money that saved from execution OFW Sarah Dematera in Dammam, Saudi Arabia. He also was able to prevent, together with Vice President Noli de Castro, the execution of Marilou Ranario in Kuwait.

He also successfully negotiated from Bahrain a donation of over P75 million to fund a Muslim cemetery in Montalban, a trading center in Taguig, school buildings in Bukidnon and Aurora, medical equipment for Tawi-Tawi and relief operations in Southern Leyte.

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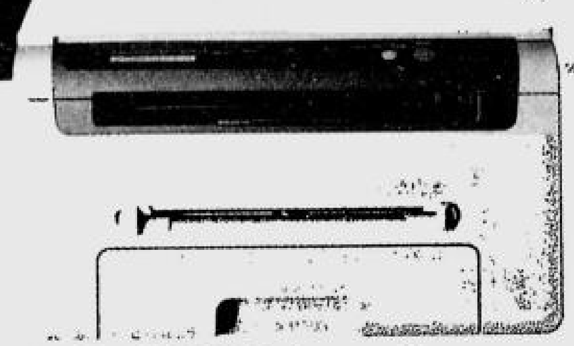

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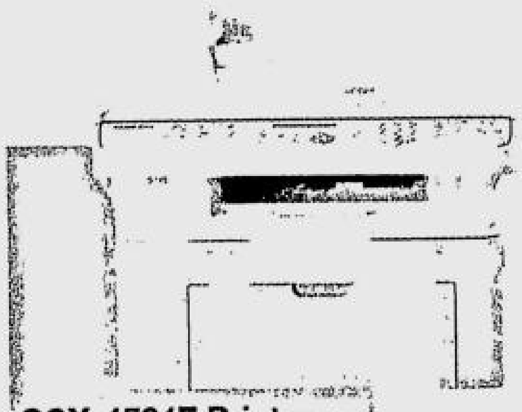

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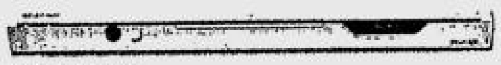

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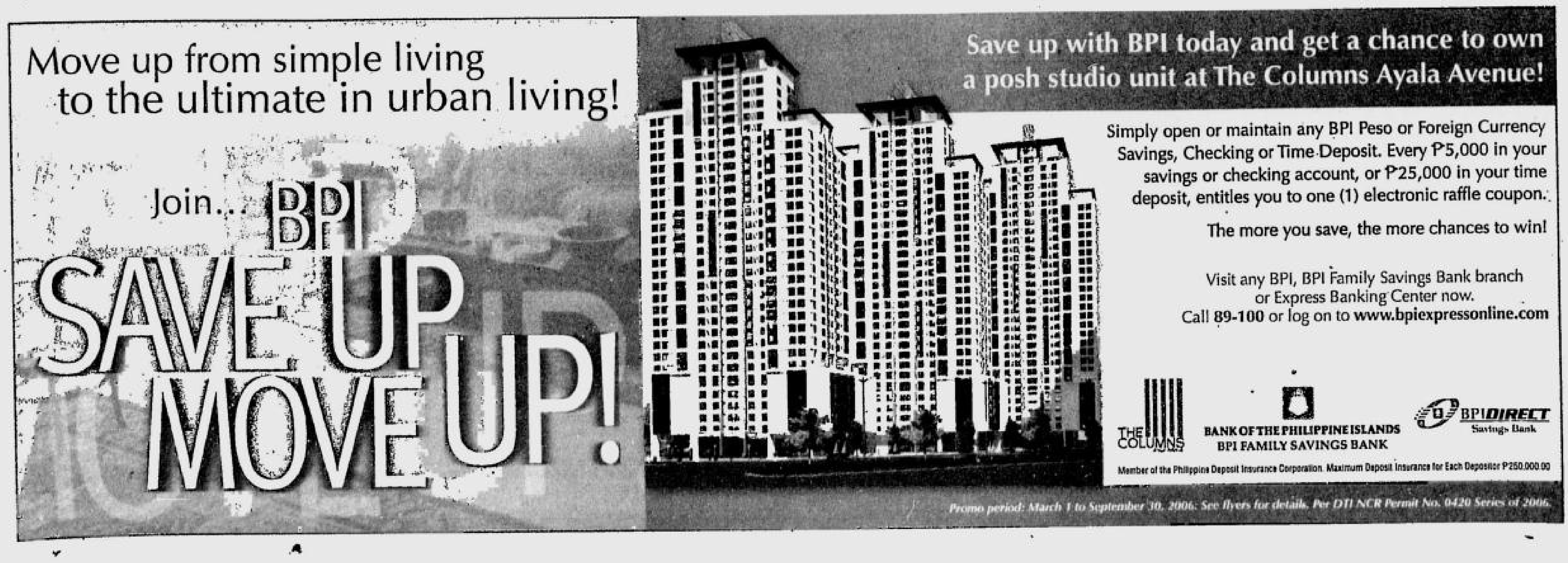

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Developed countries urged to take responsibility for environment protection

A RESOLUTION PASSED BY Asean lawmakers during the recent Asean Parliamentarians Forum on Population and Development at Penang, Malaysia, calls on all developed countries to take full responsibility for environmental protection especially because, the measure says, these countries contribute more to the degradation of the environment.

Among the talking points at the forum—where the Philippines was represented by Muntinlupa Rep. Rozzano Rufino Biazon—were responses to national disasters in the Asean region, protection of natural resources, particularly marine reserves, and maintenance of a potable water system for Asean nations.

The resolution acquires added significance in the light of the oil spill that occurred last month, when the MT Solar I sank in the Guimaras Strait off the coasts of Guimaras and Negros Oriental and spilled 200,000 liters of oil.

"It is a well-known fact that developed nations produce more waste and should therefore employ more efforts to fund conservation and disaster response programs," Biazon said in a statement.

"Aside from making funds available to respond to such marine disasters, the efforts of governments of developed nations must be well orchestrated to enable them to deal effectively with these exigencies," he said.

Biazon is the author of House Bill 209, which seeks to increase the penalty imposed on polluters of navigable waters by amending Section 7 of Presidential Decree No. 979, which in turn provides for the revision of PD 600 governing marine pollution.

Echoing his peers, Biazon said foreign governments should institutionalize a system of international cooperation in protecting the environment.

He said the Guimaras oil spill should teach all nations a valuable lesson on the long-term ill effects of such spills on the ecosystem, the livelihood of fisherfolk, and the lives of affected residents.

The Philippine government has sought help from the Indonesian, Japanese and US governments for the cleanup. But concrete action has yet to be taken by the Philippines' Asean neighbors.

Repas; 48

CYNTHIA BERNAL Repas of Ermin Garcia in Cubao, Quezon City, died at age 48 years Sept. 5 in Kuwait after an illness.

Her remains, brought home yesterday, will lie at Funeraria Paz at Araneta Ave. in Quezon City starting today.

Interment will be at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina on Sept. 17 after a Mass at 9 a.m. at Funeraria Paz.

Cynthia is survived by her husband, Eliseo Repas; her brother and sisters Leslie, Lilian, Susan and Brenda Bernal; and nephews and niece Marck, Christian, Ayie and Noel. Another nephew, Jojo Bernal, died a year ago.

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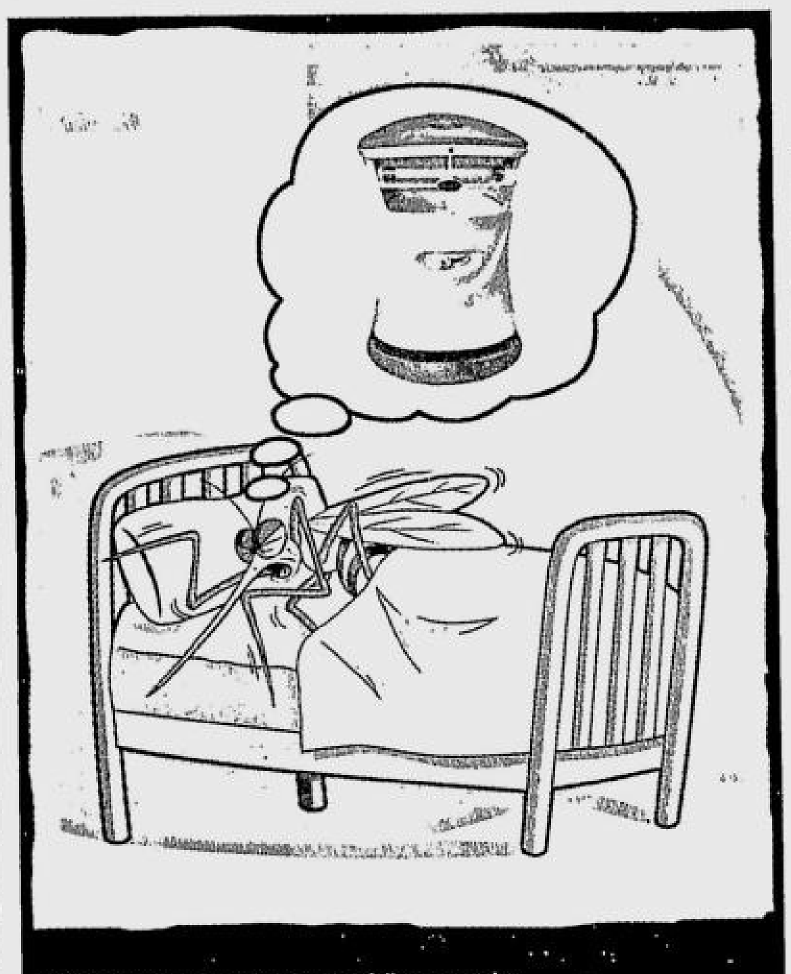

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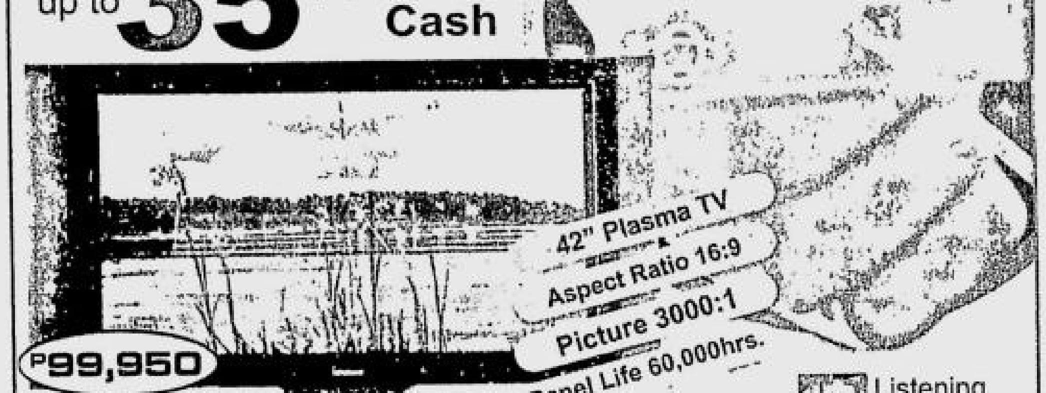

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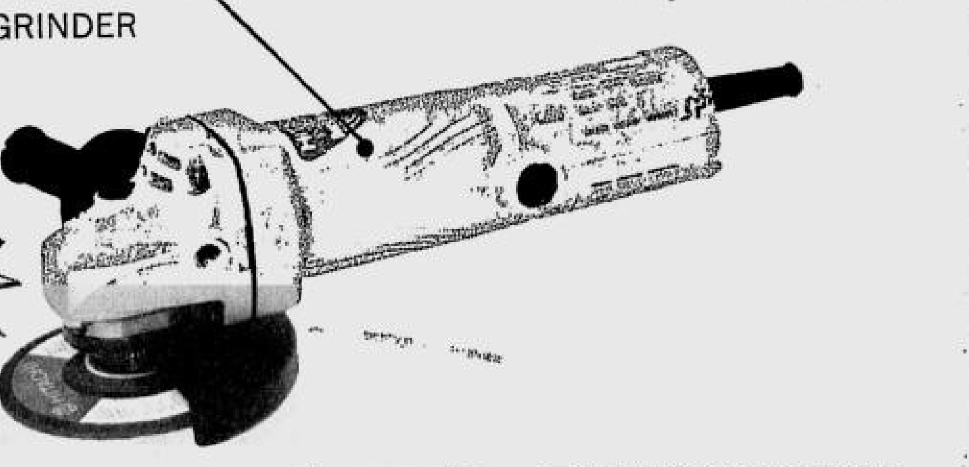

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Accused British pedophile freed

A LOCAL COURT IN THE PHILIPPINES HAS freed a British man on trial for sexually abusing young girls after three witnesses disappeared, a Roman Catholic priest said Wednesday.

Barry Raymond Edwards, a retired teacher from southern Essex, walked out free a week ago after three young girls who accused him of rape ran away from a government shelter and could not be found to testify.

"I learned about it a week ago when I went to the court to follow up on the case," said Shay Cullen, an Irish priest who runs a private shelter for abused women and children near the Subic Freeport.

"I was told by the judge that she could not continue the trial without the witnesses who were also the complainants."

Cullen said Judge Ofelia Pinto dismissed the charges against Edwards because the testimonies of the three girls were important to the case.

The judge was not available for comment.

Edwards was arrested in Angeles City in 2003 for allegedly having sex with a 14-year-old girl.

He was freed on bail but was re-arrested after three girls from Pampanga filed rape charges against him. Edwards has said the rape cases were part of an extortion plot. Local police said Edwards could no longer be located. *Reuters*

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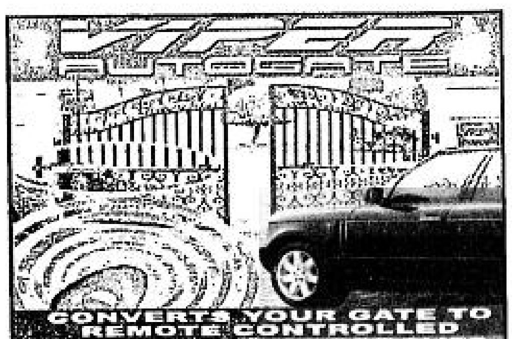

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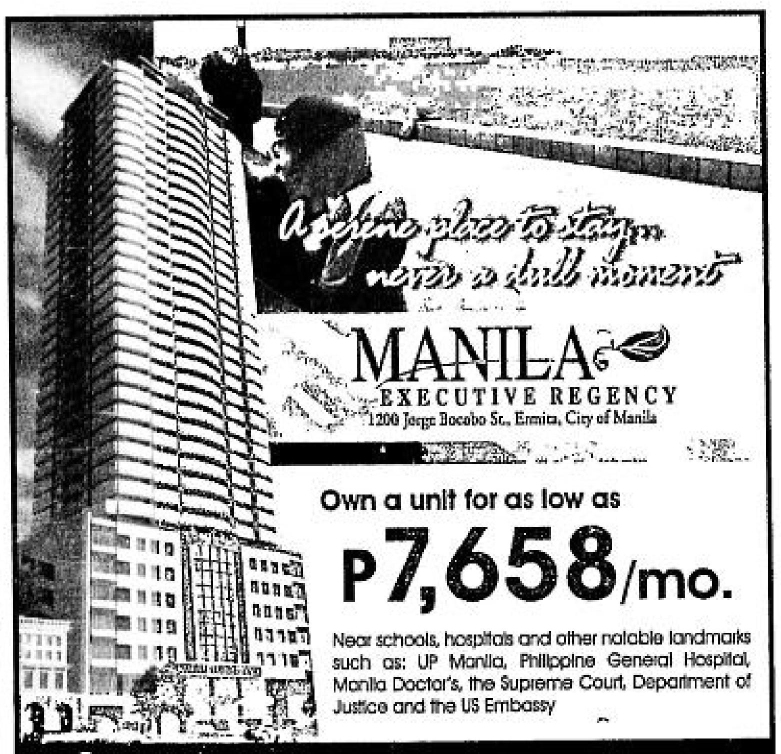

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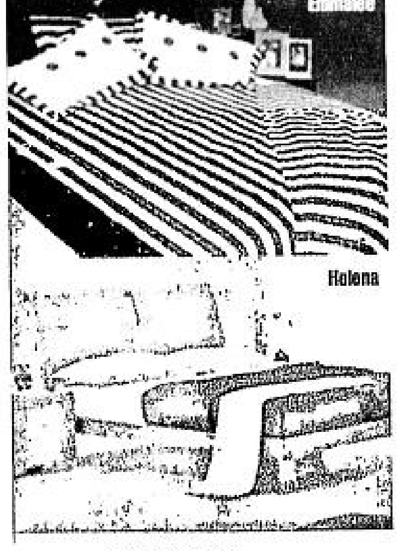

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Supreme Court to Senate: Show Sabio on Sept. 21

Hon. CAMILO L. SABIO

SEN. Richard Gordon pours a glass of water for embattled PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio after their heated argument on the Senate floor. ROGER MARGALLO

From page A1

the legality of Executive Order No. 1 granting PCGG officials immunity from legislative proceedings, lengthily tangling and exchanging taunts with and even engaging the senators in a shouting match.

The behavior of Sabio so riled Senators Richard Gordon and Juan Ponce Enrile in the tense three-hour hearing that one of them moved to "put a manacle on him" and throw him in "his cell."

"May I make a motion? May I request that this man be taken out of the room and thrown into the cell where he is now?" said Enrile, who had earlier inhibited himself from the hearing because of his interest in one of the corporations in question.

Gordon, chair of the investigating committee on government corporations, rejected Enrile's motion, but only to taunt Sabio: "I will hold off on that because I know that this man is not physically fit. He is filled with delusions of grandeur. He is filled with a franchise of intelligence."

In the end, Sabio relaxed and replied to some questions posed by Sen. Sergio Osmeña III on the extent of the PCGG's role in sequestered corporations.

'Involuntary' presence

Sabio made a grand entrance at the hearing that started at around 2 p.m.

On Gordon's orders, Sabio was escorted by the staff of the Senate sergeant at arms to the conference room after all the resource persons had taken their seats.

In his preliminary statement, Sabio declared that his presence was "involuntary," and that he would not answer questions on matters concerning the PCGG, providing a prelude to the heated exchange.

He said he was invoking Sec. 4, paragraph B of EO 1, which states: "No member or staff of the [PCGG] shall be required to testify or produce evidence in any judicial, legislative or administrative proceedings concerning matters within its official cognizance."

Sabio further pointed out that the matter referred to as Resolution No. 455 had been the subject of a civil case pending before the Sandiganbayan.

"I can be asked questions by the Sandiganbayan and, later on, by the honorable Supreme Court. This investigation is not in aid of legislation. It's utterly unnecessary. The facts that can be obtained here can be obtained before the courts," he said, adding:

"And I can't understand [this inquiry], except probably to prove that the Senate is over and above the law, Executive Order No. 1... We would like the honorable senators to obey this particular law, because they are lawmakers."

Direct contempt

Sabio has been detained at the Senate clinic since Tuesday morning, when he was arrested by Senate security men in his office for direct contempt of the investigating committees.

The PCGG, through lawyer Jay Miguel, director of the commission's legal department, filed on Wednesday the petition seeking the issuance of a writ of habeas corpus to compel the Senate to present Sabio before the Supreme Court and to justify his arrest and detention.

It also asked the tribunal to nullify all Senate orders and issuances concerning Sabio's detention and to permanently restrain the Senate from ordering his arrest and detention.

It said that Sabio had "no personal knowledge of the alleged improprieties in the operations of the [sequestered] corporations by their board of directors," and that there was "no reason to summon him to testify on these matters."

Sabio had repeatedly snubbed the Senate committees investigating the alleged anomalous losses incurred by Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp., Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. and Philippine Holdings Corp. (PHC) due to the alleged mismanagement of their boards of directors.

Other respondents

The direct contempt charge was also slapped on four PCGG commissioners (Ricardo Abcede, Nicasio Conti, Tereso Javier and Narciso Nario) and five PHC executives (Benito Araneta, Philip Brodett, Manuel Andal, Julio Jalandoni and Luis Lokin).

All of them continued to evade arrest.

The Senate sergeant at arms, retired Gen. Jose Balajadia, said his team would continue to look for the four commissioners at their known addresses even during the weekend.

Balajadia said his team had difficulty locating the four commissioners.

"We've gone to many places in Quezon City, Manila, but they would always be gone when they got there. They have many friends [helping them]," Balajadia said.

But in a phone interview yesterday, Conti denied that he and his colleagues were fugitives."

"We are continuously performing our duty as commissioners. We are just doing it somewhere else. We are not fugitives and we have not been charged with or convicted of any crime," he said, adding:

"Our non-appearance is justified by EO 1. But now, it is up to the courts. We are just doing our job to uphold the rule of law and in accordance with our mandate."

'Undemocratic'

Enrile said the immunity provision of EO 1 was unconstitutional and undemocratic because it placed the PCGG beyond the reach of any of the three branches of government, including the President, the Supreme Court and the entire Congress.

"Who is over you?" Enrile asked Sabio. "Everybody seems to be under the PCGG. There is no law that will govern you if your theory is correct. That is why I said this provision is undemocratic to be inserted in the laws of a democratic country like the Philippines."

Gordon said no other official in memory had invoked such a provision "institutionalizing the unaccountability" of public officials.

Enrile said the provision must be revisited by the Supreme Court.

"I think it is better that the Supreme Court revisit this provision once and for all so that we can have a correct rule on the matter. And no one can hide behind immunity that is not germane to a democratic society," he said.

Sabio said it was not correct to say that he and the PCGG commissioners were above the presidency and the judiciary. He pointed out that he was considered a member of the Cabinet and could be fired by President Macapagal-Arroyo at any time.

"So in effect you just want to tell us to our faces that you are above the Congress. You are not above the presidency, the judiciary, so therefore you are only above Congress. That's why you can lecture to us in the manner that you did," Enrile said.

The senator had inhibited himself from participating in the hearing, but spoke after Sabio pointed out that Enrile recognized the validity of EO 1 because he had filed a bill seeking to repeal it.

Enrile said he only wanted to expunge the immunity provision to make it consistent with the democratic provisions of the Constitution.

'He was rude'

When the hearing ended at 6 p.m., Gordon said Sabio would again be required to appear at the continuation of the investigation at 2 p.m. today.

"Actually, if he were not rude I could have allowed him to go home. But he was rude. I will not allow him to control the hearing," Gordon said.

Welcoming the Supreme Court ruling, the senator said: "Yes, we will produce him there and we will argue there."

He said the ruling recognized the power of the Senate to issue arrest warrants to compel people to testify at its hearings.

"[The justices] chose a propitious date," Gordon said, referring to the fact that Sept. 21 is the anniversary of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos' declaration of martial law.

With a report from Alcuin Papa

Government Warning: Cigarette sm

Nicole wants gov't lawyers taken off case

From page A1

Nicole was referring to the cross-examination of principal accused Marine Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith conducted by public prosecutor Nolibien Quiambao.

She said she wondered why she was not consulted before the grilling of Smith by the public prosecutor.

She added that it was her personal decision to seek their replacement because what happened on Monday might be repeated when the other co-accused take the stand.

"*I-istop ko lang kung may* hidden agenda *sila* (I will stop [the trial] if they have a hidden agenda)," she said, adding that she also wondered why the grilling of the primary suspect was not assigned to the lead public prosecutor Emilie Fe de los Santos.

When asked if she was afraid she might lose the case, Nicole said yes. She said she was not sure if she would attend today's hearing.

Yesterday's hearing of the Subic rape case was to start in a few minutes and the court audience was settling in when Nicole and her mother suddenly rose from their seats, walked out of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 139, and hurriedly left the building.

Surrounded by sympathizers, the 22-year-old woman and her mother boarded a taxi, apparently to head to the Department of Justice to hand Nicole's letter to Zuño.

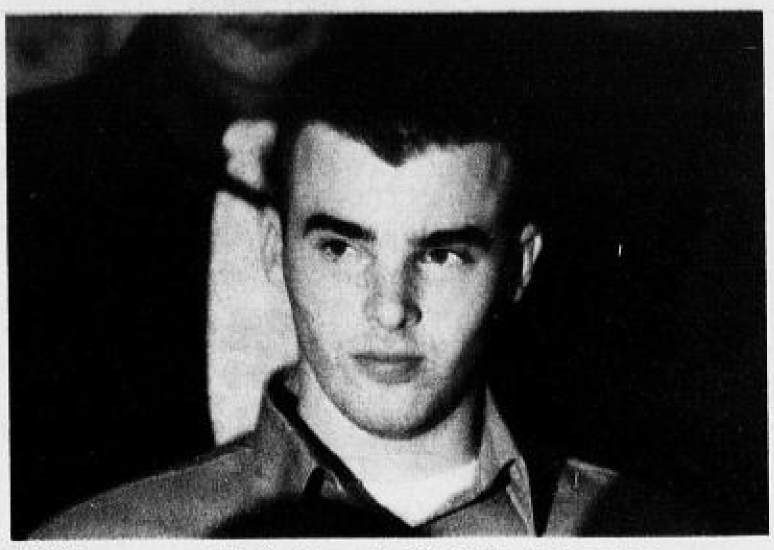
Before boarding the cab, Nicole's mother angrily told reporters in a mix of English and Filipino that they considered the state prosecutors to be incompetent.

The mother said the same thing in a later text message: "We walked out because we are not satisfied [with] the public prosecutors because they are incompetent."

Asked why, she said in Filipino: "She (Nicole) walked out because she could not accept that her case is being ignored by the public prosecutors."

The hearing, however, proceeded and the defense produced its first expert witness, whose resumé was duly scrutinized by the prosecution.

Judge Benjamin Pozon later announced that he found acceptable the credentials of Dr. Teresita Sanchez, an obstetrician-gynecologist who had also trained in forensics and toxicology, and who once honed her expertise at the National Bureau of Investigation.



PRIME rape suspect Marine Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith leaves the courthouse shortly after Thursday's hearing ended. EDWIN BACASMAS

STATE Prosecutor Hazel Valdez breaks into tears during an interview by the media. She is the only public prosecutor Nicole wants retained. EDWIN BACASMAS

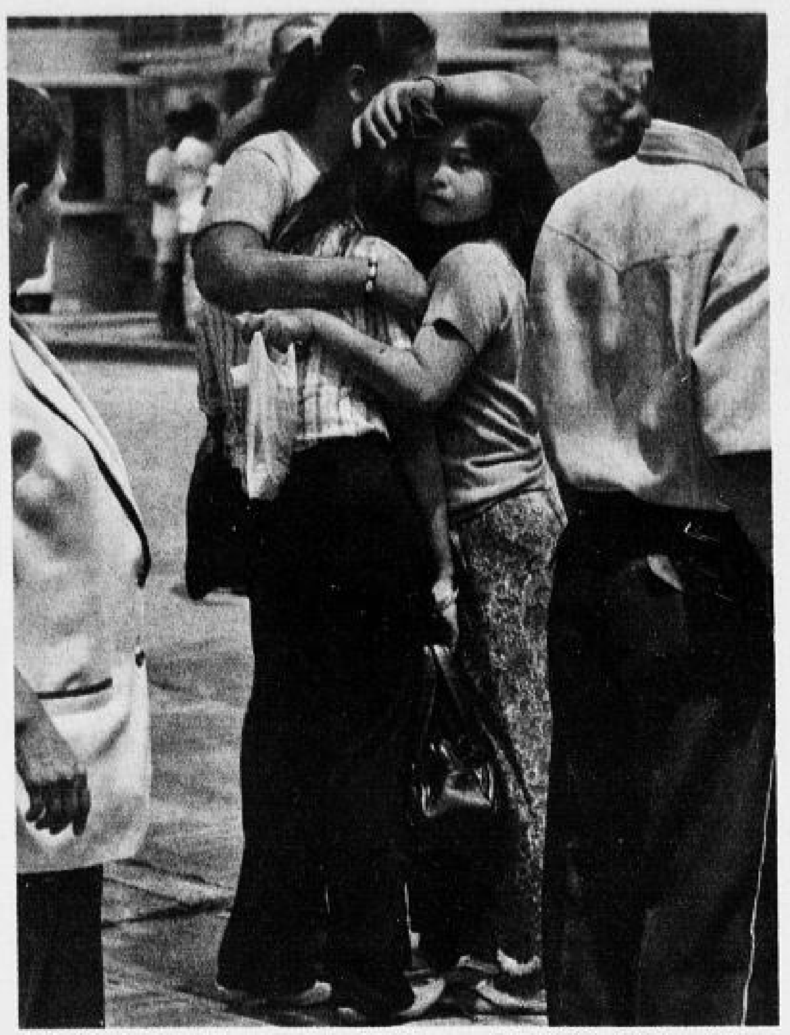
Three present

Sanchez, who is also a lawyer, is to begin her actual testimony today.

Of the five state prosecutors appointed by Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez to pursue the rape case, three were present at the courtroom yesterday—Hazel Valdez, Elizabeth Berdal and Lagrimas Agana.

Nolibien Quiambao was absent. The prosecution panel chair, Senior State Prosecutor De los Santos, had to attend the wake for a friend, according to her colleagues.

Nicole's private lawyer, Ursua, was sick and not present. Reached on the phone for comment on her client's action, Ursua said: "It would be unseemly for me to comment because I am part of the prosecution."



MEMBERS of a militant group shield rape victim "Nicole" from the media following her walkout from the courtroom in Makati City Thursday. EDWIN BACASMAS

In interviews after the hearing, the state prosecutors were one in saying that the statement of Nicole's mother was unfair. Apparently they were not yet aware of Nicole's letter to Zuño.

No one among the public prosecutors had any idea why Nicole would feel neglected, saying they had spent so much time on the case that had occupied four days, and even nights, of their every workweek since the trial began in June.

"I feel so bad because as far as I am concerned—and perhaps I can speak for the panel—we have been doing our very best, to the detriment sometimes of other cases that we are handling. And for us to be accused of incompetence is unfair," a tearful Valdez said.

"If it takes not sleeping overnight to prepare [for the case], we don't sleep, we meet and discuss. And we do not know if [Nicole and her mother] know that," she said.

'Poor showing'

Berdal told reporters: "We didn't have the opportunity to ask them why ... That's really unfair. In the first place, she hasn't been talking to us ... We have not been able to talk to the mother."

On Monday, Nicole's sympathizers had expressed dismay over how state prosecutor Quiambao had cross-examined Smith.

As the defense's first witness, Smith testified that he and Nicole had consensual sex in the back seat of the van, and that she came on to him when they met at the Neptune.

Members of the women's group Kaisa Ka issued a statement that said in part: "Is the [Department of Justice] deliberately asking for a poor showing for the case, or are we to believe we have incompetent public prosecutors?"

On Tuesday, Valdez cross-examined the second defense witness, Lance Cpl. Justin Michael Bamberger, and Nicole was seen hugging the prosecutor when the hearing adjourned.

An elated Valdez told reporters later that the prosecution panel was satisfied with Bamberger's testimony because he proved Nicole's "spontaneous reporting" of the alleged rape.

The last time Nicole walked out of the courtroom was on June 8, apparently unable to listen to the testimony of businessman Joseph Khonghun, the fourth prosecution witness.

Khonghun testified to seeing Nicole being off-loaded by two Americans from a van, and then left on the curb with her pants pulled down to her knees and a used condom dangling from her panties.

Surprised

But unlike yesterday, Nicole managed to return and listen as defense lawyers cross-examined Khonghun that day.

Members of the defense panel appeared surprised when told after the hearing about the remarks made on camera by Nicole's mother.

"In the remote possibility that the secretary of justice calls for substitutes in the prosecution, the case might be delayed," said Francisco Rodrigo, lawyer for Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier.

Ricardo Diaz, Smith's lawyer, merely said: "That's not actually our concern." But he said later that, in any trial, the members of the prosecution should be dictated to the public and not the private lawyers.

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Saber Republic

EDITORIAL

THE GENERALS DID NOT GO, BUT THEY SENT their cameramen. And in case congressmen suffer from the delusion that they are not only the bigger, but more respectable, chamber, the top brass of the military put them in their place. Military officers apparently view all politicians with contempt.

The generals were a no-show in a House inquiry on extrajudicial killings not just once, but twice. Airman First Class Julius Seriosa and Staff Sergeant Cirilo Calaycay did show up, with video cameras to record the proceedings. Outraged congressmen ordered their detention, thinking they were agents of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The AFP clarified that no, the two were from the Civil Relations Service and their video-recording was nothing new. "We have done that in the past," said the CRS chief, Commodore Amable Tolentino. "They did not hide anything when they took the pictures." He added: "I [apologize] if it touched on their sensibilities... Lack of coordination is what I see here." By way of an explanation, AFP spokesman Maj. Gen. Jose Angel Honrado said: "Their haircut was military haircut. There was no deceit or any form of espionage."

Either way, the only thing the AFP officials regretted was that their people were detained and the congressmen got upset. But with regard to what the two were doing, they saw nothing wrong with it.

But why bicker over whether they were Isafp or CRS? The same crew cut, though different uniforms, but the same institutional loyalty. It's the same dog—with different collars.

The AFP, of course, in these national security-conscious and dominated times, has been conducting surveillance and documentation procedures on critics of the administration for some time. Portable video cameras in the hands of individuals in civilian clothing but with the ubiquitous crew cut were in evidence last February, for example. What the government is doing with such videos, it has never explained—because it would be beyond explanation, anyway.

But let us recall President Macapagal-Arroyo's appeal during her last State of the Nation Address for witnesses to political murders to come forward and testify. And let us compare that image to the image in the House of Representatives of soldiers filming civilian proceedings. Can anyone doubt that there is a mismatch here? Either the President was patently insincere, or the military believes it is no longer subject to her authority as commander in chief. While the President may continue to entertain illusions of leading a Strong Republic, there is an alternate Saber Republic that views itself on par with, if not superior to, civilian authority.

Writing last June for the Asean Focus Group, political scientist Patricio Abinales explained how the military tried to set the political agenda with regard to its enemies: "The 1986-89 killings were initiated by factions inside the military who used the killings to force [President Corazon] Aquino towards a right-wing position and the communist movement to further splinter. They succeeded... The CPP lost the initiative as the assassinations only served to worsen the splits within its ranks, particularly when some of those killed were rumored to be military agents."

Abinales went on to argue: "The 2006 killings, however, come at a time when the communist movement has recovered from its internal crisis. The CPP's New People's Army (NPA) is back to roughly its late 1970s fighting capacity and pro-CPP legal groups back to full strength ... and have reasserted their presence in schools." He suggests that once more, the military may be trying to set the political agenda.

But with a difference. President Aquino enjoyed widespread public support. President Arroyo does not. Previous administrations could point to their legitimacy to pressure the military to respect civilian supremacy, the present administration cannot. If the President has had to dangle lifting term limits to her fellow politicians to keep herself in office, she has had to cede much more to the AFP. No president, ever, has been so weak, in political terms, compared to the institutional ambitions of the AFP.

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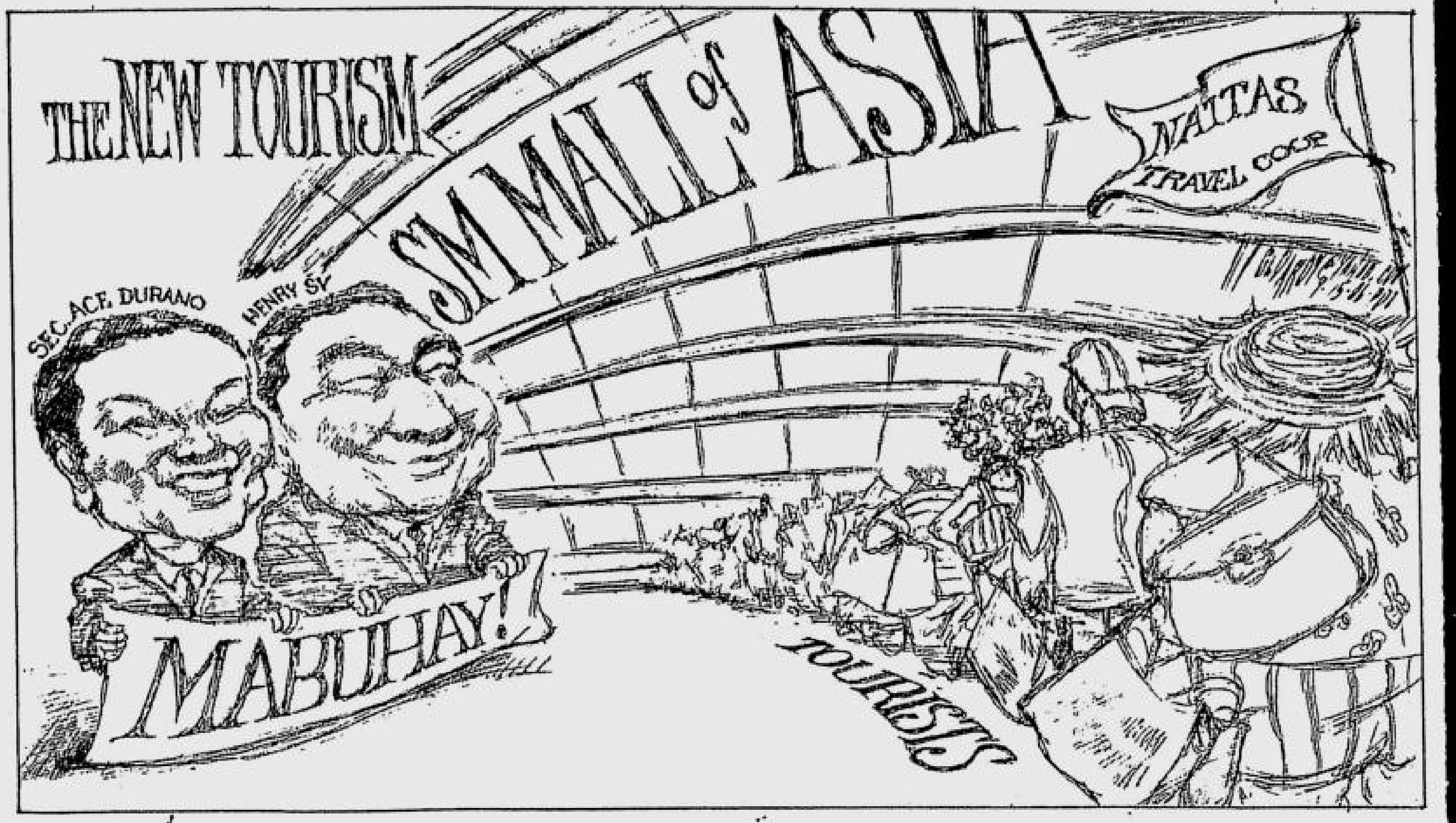


Were returns counted by the House fake?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

COMELEC CHAIR BENJAMIN ABALOS IS caught between a rock and a hard place. The Supreme Court, acting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal, has summoned him to the hearing on Sept. 18 to testify on the authenticity of election returns (ERs) that came from the poll body. Former Sen. Loren Legarda, whose election protest against Vice President Noli de Castro is being heard by the PET, presented the documents at the Sept. 12 hearing. The poll results in the Comelec copies were different from those presented at the House of Representatives which declared Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and De Castro the winners in the 2004 elections.

The Comelec official in charge of the ballot boxes, Wilfredo Gonzalez, has already testified that Legarda's ERs are authentic. They were identical to six other copies held by Namfrel and the major political parties. Only the copy in Congress was different, and it gave De Castro a big lead over Legarda.

One doesn't have to be a genius to deduce that the Congress copies are fake. And that's what Legarda is claiming. The genuine ERs, she claims, "had been substituted with fakes while in the custody of the House of Representatives."

That's the quandary of Abalos. If he admits that the Comelec copies of the ERs presented by Legarda are authentic, he would be admitting that the House's copies are fake. This would tend to prove that Legarda was cheated, and it would make President Arroyo angry because it would also show that her votes were also padded.

On the other hand, if he testifies that the Comelec's copies are not authentic, he would be hard put to explain why all the other copies distributed to different groups are identical while only the House's copy is different. He may also be prosecuted for perjury for lying to the PET.

How do you solve a problem like that? My advice to him is: Tell the truth. Never mind if GMA gets angry. It is not likely that she would finish her term anyway. She may even have him impeached. But so what? His conscience will be clean and the truth will set him free. Moreover, the people will love him for it. Honest people are very rare in the Arroyo administration. He would be one of the exceptions, and history will judge him kindly.

Legarda told the Kapihan sa Manila last Monday that even if she runs for senator in the 2004 elections (the surveys put her as the top choice of the people), she will still pursue her election protest and assume the vice presidency if she wins it.

"Won't running for the Senate be interpreted as abandoning your electoral protest, as did Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago?" she was asked.

"We will let the Supreme Court decide that," she replied. "If I am not mistaken, Senator Santiago voluntarily abandoned her protest. I won't do that. If, under an existing law, a senator can run for another position and still return to the Senate, why can't a senator assume the vice presidency if he wins it? Anyway, that is still an unsettled issue. I hope the Supreme Court will settle it as justice, not technicality, requires."

* * *

Here's another legal issue to chew on: Who has the authority to control the putting up of billboards in the stations of the Metrorail and under its railways? Is it the Metrorail or the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA)? And who has authority to regulate the putting up of billboards along the national roads like Edsa? Is it the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the local government, or the MMDA?

This is a serious matter, and it has already reached the Supreme Court.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando says local governments have the authority over billboards along the sides of Edsa, but the MMDA has authority over advertising billboards in the road right-of-way, which includes the space under the MRT carriageway on the whole stretch of Edsa. Inside the stations, that's the MRT's business, he said.

One billboard advertising agency does not agree. Trackworks Rail Transit Advertising, Vending and Promotions Inc., which has a contract with Metrorail to install billboards and signage "on the interior and exterior structure of MRT 3," claims that it authorized to do so under a valid contract with MRTC, which, in turn has a build-lease-and-transfer (BLT) contract with the government.

On the other hand, the MMDA claims that the billboards violate the National Building Code and the policy and regulations of the MMDA to dismantle all billboards along national roads as they obstruct the view and distract motorists and pedestrians. It adds that the BLT agreement is clear that Trackworks can use for advertising only the "depot and air space above the stations."

Early in 2001, the MMDA began dismantling the billboards of Trackworks. The agency sought an injunction with the Pasig regional trial court to stop the MMDA. In March 2002, the court issued a temporary restraining order (TRO) and soon after the preliminary injunction.

The MMDA filed a petition for certiorari with the Court of Appeals, which dismissed the petition and affirmed the preliminary injunction in August 2004. The MMDA went up to the Supreme Court, which also affirmed the injunction in October 2005.

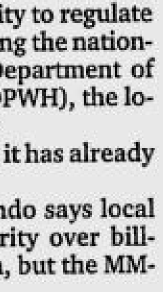
However, the MMDA continued dismantling Trackworks' billboards. Trackworks filed with the Office of the Ombudsman criminal and administrative charges against MMDA officials.

The officials insist that what they are doing is in the "public interest" as the billboards and banners "distract the attention of motorists and pedestrians" and thus can cause accidents.

Who do you think is right?

Church-State separation in the Diliman Republic

PASSION FOR REASON



Raul C. Pangalangan

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES' flagship campus in Diliman recently reaffirmed "laïcité," the principle of the secular state. A group wanted to use the Sunken Garden to unveil a giant flag but added: "Prior [to this], we will be praying for our beloved country and will ask the Living God to remove the curses ... which our country is presently experiencing and to pray for peace for our nation, and the entire world as well." (I surely know one curse who currently bedevils our wretched nation, but I wouldn't hold an exorcism on public land.)

A local group planned to unfurl the largest Philippine flag, large enough apparently to hit the Guinness Book of World Records and for which a field as big as the Sunken Garden would be required. To their credit, they packaged their flag-ceremony-cum-prayer-rally as "noble and patriotic," and therefore, as secular, with a religious twist. To the credit of UP Diliman's lawyers, they declined the request under both the religion clause of the Constitution and on religion-neutral grounds regulating the proper display of the flag.

The separation doctrine under the Constitution is actually implemented by a prohibition issued by then chancellor Roger Posadas (a nuclear physicist, significantly for this discussion) on the use of taxpayer-funded facilities for religious exercises. But Diliman's chief counsel, my former student Ida May La'O, also cited a law, the Flag and Heraldic Code of the Philippines, regulating the proper, respectful display of our flag.

The Diliman campus is one of the greenest spaces in the metropolis, whose towering acacia trees shade University Avenue even at high noon. (I actually chose to teach here because of the trees and the open fields.) It has lent itself to the outside community in many ways, even as a public park on Sundays when its tree-shaded oval hosts entire families out for a quiet stroll in the park.

But the green fields of Diliman have also been fertile soil for disaffected and agonized Catholics, they who question because they truly believe. It's ground zero for agnostics, atheists, heretics, in other words, all those who hum along with John Lennon, "Imagine there's no heaven/ It's easy if you try/ No hell below us/ Above us only sky," and actually mean it.

Indeed, in Marcelino C. Arias v. UP Board of Regents, a second year UP law student (now a full-fledged member of the bar) filed suit against classroom prayer, saying that his professor prayed in class a prayer inconsistent with his beliefs and practices as an Evangelical Baptist. I taught Constitutional Law to his section, but I couldn't have imagined that one of them would test constitutional doctrine the following semester.

But there is another side to Diliman's laïcité: it actually hosts a Catholic church right on its premises, on the same road in fact as the law school. Indeed, in the 1950s, the UP Student Catholic Action (UPSCA), under Fr. John Delaney, was so influential on campus that, history books say, when Joma Sison first organized the precursor to Kabataang Makabayan, he named it Student Cultural Action in UP (SCAUP), a deliberate pun on Delaney's loyalists. I later learned that the legal opinion justifying the use of government land for the chapel was written by Enrique Fernando, then a young professor in the law faculty and later Supreme Court chief justice. He would later explain that he invoked the "free exercise" clause—that when UP transferred from Padre Faura to the boondocks in Diliman, it was duty-bound to provide accessible facilities where its students and faculty can worship.

This reason may have been valid in the 1950s when Diliman was literally "the darkness," but not anymore with at least three churches within five minutes of the campus. But just when you think that time has overtaken the free exercise rationale, analyze this: Whatever your religion, the Church of the Holy Sacrifice is literally a work of art. The murals of the Stations of the Cross were painted by Vicente Manansala, the two-sided crucifix sculpted by Napoleon Abueva, the paradigm-breaking dome designed by Leandro Locsin, and the energy radiating from the altar through Arturo Luz's "The River of Life" floor inlay. Can you imagine these future National Artists as young men consecrating their handiwork? Dare anyone evict such magnificence? (Yes, my students reply in mischief. Convert it into a museum!)

Just last week, my wife and I were in Hanoi where I spoke at an international forum entitled "Beginning the Conversation: Religion and the Rule of Law in Southeast Asia." The UP Asian Center's Matthew Santamaria, the other Filipino professor in the Hanoi forum, called the Philippines a "quasi-secular state." There is no better example of our "quasi-ness" than this fusion of the state (through the flag), religion (through the prayer) and the market (through the Guinness Book competition).

Karl Marx, in his more romantic "early writings," said that we have been so atomized into self-interested individuals that, parched of meaning, we had to construct two worlds where we can pretend to be selfless and altruistic (or "nationalistic," for today's politically correct, though intellectually tardy, Pinoy). The first is the republic, where rich and poor stand shoulder to shoulder as equals before the law. The second is religion, where we project that altruism unto a Supreme Being, eternally giving and forgiving. He concluded: If God didn't exist, we would have had to invent him. If he sees the Pinoy's quasi-secular state, quasi-regulated market and quasi-political church, Marx himself will say: *Susmaryosep!*

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

A gap in the skyline

COMMENTARY

John J. Carroll, S.J.
Institute on Church and Social Issues

THERE WAS A GAP IN THE FAMILIAR MANhattan skyline as I gazed across the Hudson River from Jersey City. On previous visits, staying at the Jesuit High School near the riverfront, I would go up to the roof deck and make my morning prayer as the sun came up behind the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center. Now, in late September of 2001, there were only smoldering ruins where the towers had stood, the smoke still rising. The city was shrouded in grief as many of the policemen, firemen and office workers who lost their lives there had lived in Jersey City. Almost daily, one firehouse or another echoed with the wail of bagpipes in memorial services for men of that firehouse who had died in the line of duty.

The grief was too heavy at that time and place for dispassionate analysis. Only later, on a trip to New England, did I hear a sermon in which—without excusing the terrible crime that had been committed—the priest related it to worldwide injustice and to the hatred that injustice generates. Still later, one courageous columnist in The New York Times dared to relate it to the United States' unwavering support for Israel and the hatred that had generated in the Muslim and Arab worlds.

Only creation is an absolute beginning; everything else has a history. Take that hatred of Israel as a starting point. The nation was established by force after World War II, with Jewish immigrants and survivors of Hitler's genocide driving out Arabs who had lived there for centuries. The latter gathered in refugee camps and whole generations grew up in them, schooled to a sense of injustice and hatred of Israel, hatred which spread to the rest of the Arab and Muslim worlds. Meanwhile the Western nations, led by the United States, supported Israel, their support bolstered by horror at what the Jews had suffered under Hitler and not least by the Jewish lobbies in the United States.

If Arab and Muslim hatred of the West stems immediately from the dispossession of the Palestinian Arabs, itself a response to the crimes of Hitler, its roots may go much deeper—back to the Crusades. Memories of injustice are passed on from generation to generation, as the American authorities learned recently in Jolo. There, memories of the Bud Daho massacre of 600 Muslim men, women and children by US troops in 1906 disrupted a conference sponsored in part by the State Department.

Memories of injustice, real or imagined, continue to fuel conflicts which are tearing our world apart: Hindus and Muslims in India; Tamil and Singhalese in Sri Lanka; Catholics and Protestants in Ireland; Christians and Muslims in Mindanao; and more and more the Muslim world against President George W. Bush and his allies. The hatred being generated today by allied, and specifically American, forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, by the harsh treatment of suspected terrorists by or with the compliance of American service personnel and CIA agents, can last for hundreds of years. Pope John Paul II saw this and urged Bush not to attack Iraq. Bush ignored the advice, led the nation into a quagmire from which there seems to be no exit and ignited the fires of hatred which will burn long after he is gone.

What can be done? With regard to Iraq, it would seem that the dogs of ethno-religious conflict which have been set loose must somehow be restrained, whether by American or other outside forces. Having precipitated the situation, it would be an act of irresponsible cowardice to simply walk away. Defense against terrorist attack is necessary as well, but not by means of "preemptive strikes," interrogation techniques which violate human dignity, or cluster-bombing of civilian areas as the Israelis seem to have done in Lebanon. These only add to the "butcher's bill" of hatred and terrorism to be paid by future generations.

More fundamentally, however, there is need for a change in attitudes, a willingness to see the other as also a child of God, an openness to dialogue, to apologizing for mistakes of the past, to the rectification of past injustices, and to forgiveness.

Pope John Paul II gave a magnificent example of the latter after he was shot and nearly killed by Ali Agca, in 1981. As soon as he had left the hospital, he went to the prison where the gunman was held. Time magazine printed a magnificent cover-picture of the Pope in his white cassock embracing Ali Agca, and an essay in which it pointed out that John Paul had consciously "staged" this meeting as a "parable in action." He wanted to impress on the world the message that the only way ahead is one of forgiveness and reconciliation.

There is more than enough guilt to go around, guilt for both historical and current "mistakes." The United States, the only nation to have used the atom bomb in war, has little claim to moral purity as it plays policeman of the world. The Philippine nation, too, might reflect long and hard on its treatment of cultural minorities and of the poor in general, and more importantly take serious steps to right the wrongs of the past and present.

We will probably have more gaps in the skylines around the world, and we must protect ourselves. But protection alone can be endless and self-defeating unless the nations face up to their many butcher's bills, correct what can be corrected and agree to move on as children of one God.

* * *

For comments: jcarroll@ateneo.edu

Reaching the women

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AS OTHER COUNTRIES HAVE PROVEN, THE only way to bring down the number of cervical cancer cases and deaths is to screen large numbers of women to "catch" HPV infection, suspicious cells and precancerous lesions before they develop into full-blown invasive cancer. The trouble is that conventional mass-screening programs require more resources than many poor countries are willing or able to devote.

Dr. Patrick Walker, a British gynecologist, outlined at the AOGIN bi-annual conference held recently in Cebu the elements of a successful screening campaign, such as that in Britain that boasts of an enviable 83.7 percent coverage. There, every woman between the ages of 20 and 64 receives a letter every three or five years inviting her to go for a pap smear. The "invitation" not only raises awareness of the need for regular screening, but also ensures that the women remember to go for follow-up tests. Also key to a successful screening program is a good registry that keeps track of the women, and more important, will enable health authorities to reach those who test positive and will need treatment.

But all these would be of little use without the necessary health infrastructure—clinics, equipment, labs and qualified lab workers, physicians, nurses, midwives and other health workers, and the funds needed to fuel the program.

And that's the problem that "low resource" countries face. Without all these necessary elements for a successful conventional screening program, there's simply no way for cervical cancer incidence to decline or to bring down the number of deaths.

* * *

SPEAKING on a public-awareness campaign they're launching in Singapore, Dr. Eng Hseon Tay revealed that ovarian cancer has already overtaken cervical cancer as a leading cause of cancer death among women. Singapore reports less than half of the cervical cancer incidence as that of the Philippines: 10.6 per 100,000 in Singapore against 22.2 per 100,000 here. The Philippines reports 7,277 new cases and 3,807 deaths due to cervical cancer each year (contrasted with 200 deaths in Singapore).

Dr. Genara Manuel Limson, who headed an advisory body on cervical cancer, says their studies have proven the fairly obvious: That the existing health infrastructure "is not sufficiently developed to support a cytology-based (that is, needing lab work) screening program" in this country.

Based on these findings, Dr. Limson says the body has recommended instead the adoption of VIA—for visual inspection using acetic acid wash—as the primary screening tool for cervical cancer in the country, "as an initial test for health centers without a (capability for conducting) pap smears, with women who test positive to be referred for colposcopy."

To this end, the DOH established a pilot program in Cebu province that involved conducting workshops to train health personnel on pap smears and VIA, networking and advocacy meetings with various sectors, including local governments, and the preparation of a training manual on VIA. The DOH has also set up a screening center at the Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center.

* * *

GOING beyond VIA, there are also in place pilot projects using what's known as the "single visit approach," championed primarily by JHPIEGO, an international health center affiliated with Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Harshad Sanghvi, JHPIEGO medical director, says a screening program that relies mainly on gynecologists and cytologists (who conduct the lab tests) cannot hope to achieve high coverage.

The "single visit approach" involves training nurses, midwives and other health workers in using VIA, which doesn't need any sophisticated equipment and the application of a low-cost acetic acid wash (which makes abnormal cells or lesions in the cervix turn white), and to treat "problematic" growths or lesions by cryofreezing them. The training program should enable the health personnel to distinguish between low-grade lesions and cancerous growths, and refer the women with cancer symptoms immediately for colposcopy and treatment.

The "single visit approach" presents several advantages. Most obvious is that women need only pay a single visit to be screened, tested and treated, with no need to return just to get the results (as with a pap smear), or to be treated. In a country where women may have to travel several kilometers to reach a health center, or miss a day of work, this is no small advantage.

Also, the low cost of testing and treatment, and the much larger number of qualified health personnel, allow health authorities to reach more women and to prevent precancerous conditions from getting any worse.

* * *

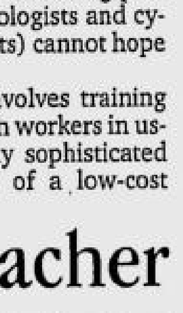
SO far, though the "single visit approach" has been tried out in a number of countries, the program in Thailand has reported the most successful outcomes. Now being tried out in 13 provinces, the program has reached and treated 2,000 women, and achieved about 50-percent coverage in some provinces.

At the moment, though, the "single visit approach" is still on the level of pilot testing (with a project to be launched here soon), and several issues remain. As Sanghvi asked the AOGIN conference: "Are the limitations acceptable?" Among the limitations are: The absence of cytology or confirming lab work, the issue of over-treatment, with health workers cryofreezing possibly normal tissue, with no definitive studies yet on the effect of such treatment on the normal cervix, and the willingness of doctors and cytologists to delegate responsibility to nurses and midwives.

The question that should be uppermost now on the minds of health decision-makers is: For the sake of achieving adequate coverage, can we (or the women) live with the limitations of such an approach?

The good teacher

LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

TWO FRIDAYS AGO, AFTER GEORGE S.K. TY handed out the trophies and checks to the 10 Metrobank Outstanding Teachers for 2006, the search for the 2007 batch was silently underway. A tri-media blitz was meant to herald this year's winners and encourage others to aspire for the same award. I'm sure all the winners continue to reap congratulatory messages and have to answer the same questions, so I'm sharing a conversation with Therese M. Gutierrez of Metrobank for whatever it is worth.

What in your opinion is the epitome of a good teacher?

"A good teacher should basically teach a given subject and teach it well—that is the minimum. If you don't teach what you are supposed to teach, then you don't deserve to be called a teacher. What makes you good or even exceptional is that you go beyond the subject matter, that you not just inform but you actually form your students into something better. Using the given subject matter at hand, you form your students to become better citizens or better Filipinos.

"Most people think Philippine History is old and irrelevant because they have not seen beyond its being an informative subject—the what, where and when. Basically I would like to think that a good history teacher sees more than the informative subject, and actually concentrates on the formative aspect—meaning, you ask how and why. This will allow the students to use history as a mirror in which to see themselves. And it is only when the student finds his or herself within a given subject or discipline that he can become something more. That's when teaching becomes truly formative."

Do you consider yourself an epitome of a good teacher?

"No, there are better teachers than me. I saw that plainly in my fellow finalists in this search for the outstanding teacher. I may not be the best, but I'd like to think I am different. And teachers come in many forms, shapes and sizes. There are teachers who are 'feely,' someone you befriend. I am not that kind of a teacher. There are those who have to climb mountains and cross rivers and evade snakes in order to reach a classroom. I have not faced that kind of a challenge. I am simply a teacher who imparts my subject area differently because I am not just a history teacher but a practicing historian. So while the fruits of my research should naturally see print in some obscure academic journal, I do otherwise by writing for a newspaper. My research I use in my classroom lectures.

"It is actually in the classroom that I take my students in hand and give them a sense of what a historian actually does, to show how one does research, how one interrogates the given material and reconstructs an elusive past. That's what makes me different as a history teacher.

"Am I a really good teacher? I don't know, but the fact that my class is one of the most sought after in the Ateneo can be an indication that I'm doing something right. I don't give very high grades, I speak in a boring monotone, yet students still enroll in my class. They must see something I don't.

"My students do not realize that one of the joys of teaching, for me, is that I learn more from them than they do from me. So each semester that I teach, something that I have done for over 20 years, there's always a new angle, a new way of looking at old things. Students often see things differently and, while others mistake this as a generation gap, I see it as a bridge between my time and theirs. It is in this meeting of minds where we actually learn, both sides learn."

Why did you join the search?

"I didn't actually join, the school nominated me. I didn't even want to join because I heard from previous winners that the most stressful part of the search was having to document the last 10 years of your life, which is worse than applying for promotion in my university! In the Ateneo, you only have to document the last five years of your life and work. And I have never applied for promotion because I do not have the patience to do all the paperwork. As a historian, I am quite lax in terms of documentation. I don't keep certificates of appreciation. I have recycled some narra into chopping boards and cheese platters. I don't even clip my newspaper column. There's no record at all. For the search, everything had to be located, compiled and organized to comply with the requirements. For this alone, I wouldn't have joined if the school hadn't nominated me."

What was the most challenging moment that you have encountered so far?

"Every time you enter a classroom, it is a challenging moment. Classes are never the same. You never know what you will get. Maybe because of who I am and maybe because I am senior, I have huge classes of around 80 to 85 students per class. So I have a mix of people who must be entertained and yet given something to think about. If you ask around or read the online assessments of Ateneo teachers, you will see that there are certain professors who make the complete 'Ateneo experience.' I was surprised and flattered to find myself in the company of the best, the brightest, the most sought-after professors in the university, and that is both a compliment and a challenge. It means that I have to give my best all the time."

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

American dreams

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

MILLIONS OF FILIPINOS DREAM OF MIGRATING OVERseas for a better life, with the United States probably still their most favored destination.

I'd like to see Pulse Asia and the Social Weather Stations probing a bit more into what Mother America represents to the Filipino, but I suspect that the majority of Filipinos see the United States as the richest, most democratic country in the world, a country of opportunity and of fairness.

All these perceptions come from a snowball effect. Because of half a century of formal colonial occupation, Filipinos know more about America than any other Western country, maybe even more than about our own country.

And with some two million Filipinos already living there, America becomes even more real for many Filipino families, in the photographs and the goods that spill out of the *balikbayan* boxes (never mind that a lot of those goods are made in China—they still smell like America).

Dismal

But our awareness of America's bounties may be skewed. Time and time again, international statistics have shown that while the United States remains the wealthiest and most powerful country in the world, it lags far behind many other developed countries in terms of social indicators and quality of life. For example, the UNDP's annual Human Development Index considers not just Gross National Product but social indicators, and in the last few years, they have consistently shown how Canada and several Scandinavian countries offer a better quality of life than the United States.

Last week a US research group, the Economic Policy Institute, released its report on the "State of Working America 2006-2007," and the statistics for the United States are dismal. Compared to 19 other member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), all developed countries, the United States has the highest income inequality, the highest poverty rates, the highest infant mortality rate and the lowest life expectancy. The report also notes that workers in America have to work far more hours than European workers, with fewer benefits.

I pulled out a few statistics to share with readers:

Between 2000 and 2004, adjusting for inflation, median income in the United States fell by 3 percent. Incomes are marked by great inequality. From 1992 to 2005, the median pay for chief executive officers (CEOs) rose by 186 percent while that for workers went up by 7 percent.

Some 37 million people, or 13 percent of the population, are classified as poor. Inequalities in wealth have risen mainly as the rich draw more income from stocks and mutual funds, rather than salaries. But less than half of American households own stocks in any form. About 13 percent of white households and 29 percent of black households have zero or negative net worth, meaning they have more liabilities than assets.

Poverty and deprivation are most stark in health care, with 40 percent of adults surveyed in the United States saying they have gone without needed care due to costs. This shouldn't be surprising, given that 46 million Americans have no health insurance coverage.

We think of the United States as a land of opportunity, but the Economic Policy Institute found that income mobility has slowed down so that rags-to-riches stories are now an exception rather than the rule. The most shocking statistic in the report is that for a poor family with two children, it will take nine to 10 generations—over 200 years—to reach middle-income status.

Education continues to be an important variable in determining wages and income mobility, but the problem is that access to education is itself a function of income. A telling statistic from the Economic Policy Institute: Only 29 percent of high-achieving children from low-income families finish college, with almost the same figure, 30 percent, applying to low-achieving children of high-income families.

Still America

Despite all the grim statistics, the United States will continue to be the land of milk and honey for Filipinos mainly because we have been so Americanized. A Filipino goes through much less culture shock in the United States than in Europe, having grown up surrounded by things American, from McDo to MTV.

The bottom line, too, is that the Philippines is in such a bad shape that even the worst of America seems almost luxurious compared to the poverty here. The poverty threshold level for a family of four (parents and two children) is about $20,000, but many Filipinos won't think of that as poverty; after all, in the Philippines, $20,000 makes one a millionaire.

There are other perks. The Economic Policy Institute reports that 68 percent of American households own their own homes. Most Filipinos will never see such statistics, but they know that their Tita Angie or Lolo Berto, who worked as utilities persons, have their own house and a car, maybe even cars—never mind if the house is run down and the cars are second-hand. And who cares about all those statistics indicating difficult social mobility when being part of the underclass in the United States seems that much better than being in the middle class in the Philippines.

Deserving more

I still believe the Filipino deserves more, and by "more" I mean being able to live a decent life here in the Philippines. But the Economic Policy Institute's figures remind us of a painful irony: Even as Filipinos try to escape poverty here by moving to the United States, we fail to see how our problems here are often linked to our slavish imitation of Mother America with her dog-eat-dog capitalism, with her show-biz "democracy," with little regard for issues of social justice.

Alas, we continue to delude ourselves, insisting on the American model of letting the rich get richer first and hoping the benefits will trickle down. It's not happening here. What we have instead is the migration safety valve, with 1 out of 10 Filipinos working or living overseas so he can bring home the dollars and yen and euros. Often enough, the wages aren't any much better than what he could have gotten here, if the jobs were available. (Just think of the Filipinas working for $200 a month in Lebanon. Why couldn't we create jobs paying P10,000 a month here?)

The Economic Policy Institute and UNDP reports should spur us to look for other models for development, from Canada, Europe to even neighboring countries that have tried to combine economic growth with social development.

Our dreams, and our despair, are those of America writ large.

* * *

The Society for Adolescent Medicine of the Philippines (Sampi) will hold its 4th biennial convention from Sept. 20 to 21 at the Century Park Hotel around the theme "Defining the Vision for Adolescent Health and Well-being." For more information, call 924-6601, local 274.

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The trial of the Melo Commission

I JOIN SEN. AQUILINO PIMENTEL IN BEseeching God for a TRO and a final injunction on extrajudicial killings, fraud and corruption (never mind Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's irrelevant theological sermon).

Not surprisingly, the Arroyo-created Melo Commission, which has been directed to look into the extrajudicial killing of more than 720 activists, church workers, journalists and members of peoples' organizations, has been met with grave public mistrust despite its avowed "no sacred cows promise."

It will not be a surprise if the Melo Commission ends up as an enormous disappointment just like the Arroyo-created Task Force Usig. The latter body merely reinforced the people's belief that this government's major intention is to vilify the victims through the same rehashed stories about the so-called communist purge, which does not in any way change the fact that the 720 judicial killings happened during the Arroyo presidency and have effectively paralyzed the legal mass movement in many parts of the country.

Now a big challenge faces the members of the Melo Commission: Will they crucify the culprits or give the people the kiss of Judas? (Judas, forgive the metaphor!) Will they give the guilty enough rope to justify more political killings? The members of the commission must be under intense pressure. We can only imagine the mental and emotional torture they are going through as they look into the gruesome cases of murder, torture, abduction and forced disappearance. But then, at the other end of the line, there is also a President to save. This, amid a people's clamor for justice.

The big surprise would be the commission finding the President and her generals liable for executing "Oplan Bantay Laya," one of the most inhumane and barbaric policies jointly undertaken by the head of state and the military in Philippine history.

Still, the people are hopeful that the members of the commission will not whitewash the case in lousy technicalities such as what Congress did with the impeachment raps against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

—REN JALALUDDIN ROPETA,
vice chair, Moro-Christian Peoples' Alliance
(MCPA), Mapagbigay Street,
Barangay Pinyahan, Diliman, QC

Not lawyering for Romualdezes

VICTOR C. AGUSTIN AGAIN MISLEADS INQUIRER readers in his column "Partners abandon Roco law firm." (PDI, 8/30/06) Obviously intending to discredit and humiliate me, Agustin falsely and maliciously reported that I sided with Ferdinand Martin Romualdez in the EPCIB conflict and that, as a result, Barbara Anne Migallos and Troy Luna "broke away" from and "deserted" the Roco law firm.

As stated in an earlier letter (dated June 26, 2006) to the INQUIRER, neither I nor the Roco law firm represented the Romualdezes or any of their companies, including Trans Middle East. Further, the fact is that it was at my instance that the partners of the Roco law firm agreed to dissolve the partnership and pursue their respective interests. Five of the seven partners formed the Kapunan Lotilla Flores Garcia & Castillo Law Offices together with eight of the 11 associates of the Roco law firm.

I am the the private prosecutor in the pending criminal case for libel against Agustin, who has repeatedly failed to present evidence in his defense. Agustin has asked, for at least eight times already, that the libel hearings be postponed. Agustin is clearly using his column to attack and pressure me into agreeing to dismiss the libel case.

Once more, Agustin overstepped the bounds of press freedom. Fortunately, no reasonably discerning person would give credence to Agustin's words. This letter is for the benefit of the few who might consider Agustin as truthful.

—LORNA P. KAPUNAN,
Kapunan Lotilla Flores Garcia
& Castillo Law Offices, Strata 2000 Bldg.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Bicol University doesn't offer medical course

THIS REFERS TO THE AUG. 19 ISSUE OF the INQUIRER which carried the complete list of new doctors and top performing medical schools.

The list showed that the Bicol University Legazpi City had a 0 percent passing rate. Allow us to correct this error. The medical course has never been offered and is not among those included in the curricular programs of the university.

The erroneous list undoubtedly besmirched the good name and reputation of Bicol University as a premier state university in the Bicol region.

Please make the necessary correction.

—DR. SUSANA C. CABREDO,
SUC president 4,
Bicol University Legazpi City

The complete list of doctors and medical schools was provided by the Professional Regulation Commission.—Ed.

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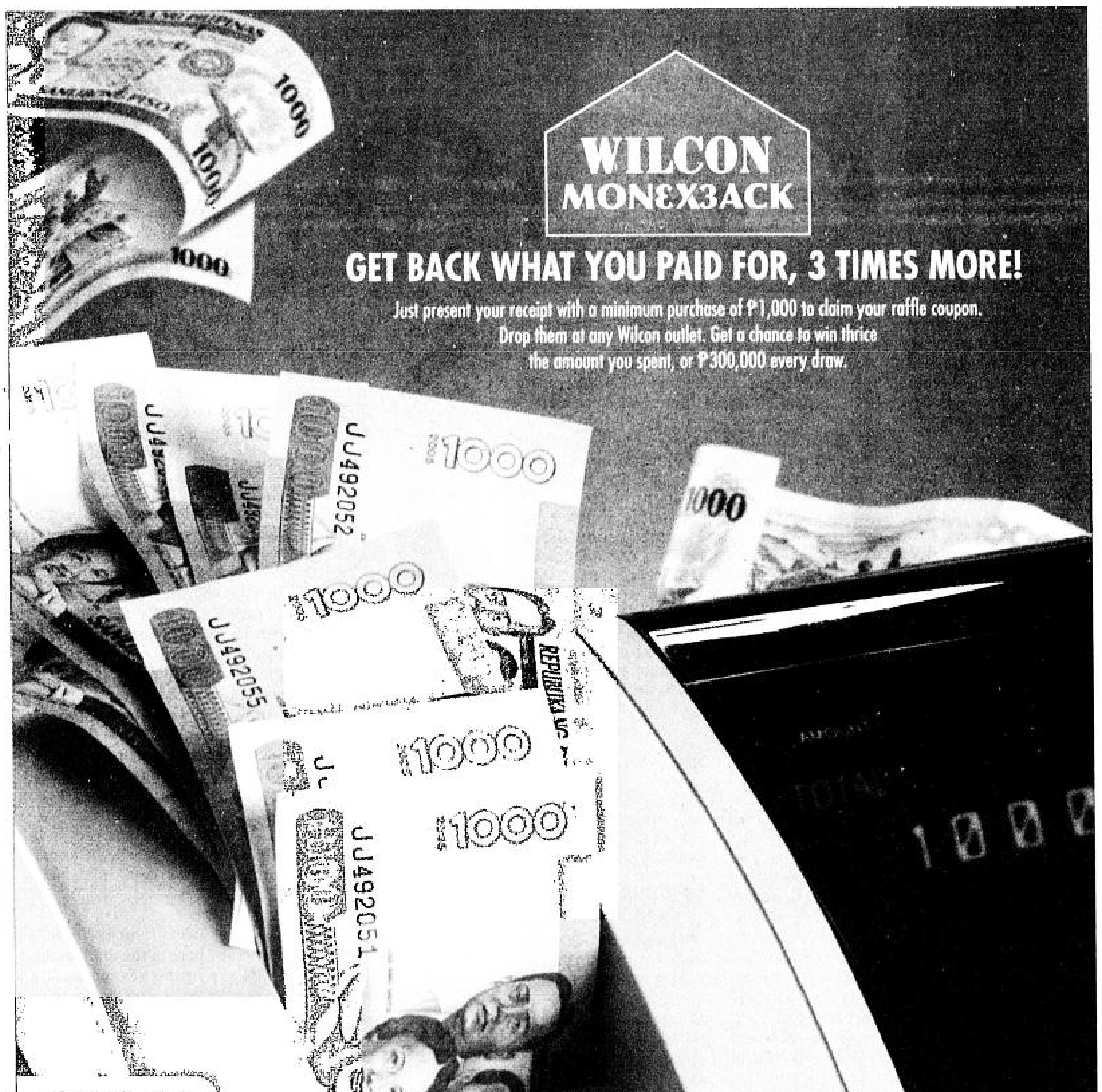
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2726 Series of 2006

Getting away with cheating

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

IF PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo can cheat in an election, bishops can receive dirty money from Malacañang, and preneed companies can get away with not paying benefits due their clients, why can't nursing students cheat in their board exam?

All concerned citizens of this country must now come together and take a stand against political corruption, religious hypocrisy and corporate greed. These persistent and unfortunate legacies of our colonial history must now be put to an end.

We must now start to build new institutions and a new culture. We did it in Edsa I and II. We earned the admiration of the world with these two peaceful revolutions. Let's do it again. We must take action. Otherwise, this country is doomed and we're all going down with it. The way things are going, we're not too far away from the precipice.—**Gico Dayanghirang, Davao City (via e-mail)**

***

In a country where cheating with impunity has become the norm rather than the exception and where remittances from "exported" skilled professionals keep the economy afloat, the leaks that marred the last nursing board exam and the desperate efforts to preserve the examination's credibility in the aftermath, were bound to happen.

This unfortunate scandal, however, may yet prove to be a great blessing if it finally drives home the point that there can be no true progress unless we have our hearts in the right place.

That there was a leak in the nursing exam is nothing more than a symptom of our nation's deep cancers. No government agency is spared. However, the response of the academe, the Board of Nursing, the hospitals, the physicians and the other professionals could form part of the cure. Indications are that there is a collective effort from many quarters to do the right thing and not just the expedient thing. The stakeholders are unlikely to say, "Let's forget the whole thing and move on."

All over the country, doctors, nurses and other health professionals are starting to heed the call to be more than just healers. There is a growing realization that we must use our professions to help begin a revolution of the heart. It might be the only way to force genuine change at the top.

Medical professionals know people in the most personal way. We are privileged to see individuals inside out, both literally and figuratively. We know just how much our people are hurting from living in a society that encourages cynicism and mocks idealism, and rewards thievery and punishes honesty.

The battle is but part of a bigger struggle to restore decency, integrity and honor in our national life.

The nursing exam scandal is an opportunity to rediscover and reclaim the values that we have been forced to deny and even discard for survival's sake. Let's not waste it.—**Minguita Padilla, M.D., president, Sinag, A People's Crusade For Good Governance (via e-mail)**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

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Reyes sees $6.5B in foreign mining investments

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONment and Natural Resources has identified 23 mineral development projects which are expected to bring to the Philippines $6.5 billion in investments in the medium term.

This was disclosed by DENR Secretary Angelo T. Reyes in his speech before the African-based and Africa-centric mining investors, including those from South Africa, Tanzania, Mali and other African states, attending the Indaba in the Philippines Mining Conference at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel last Tuesday, Sept. 12.

Reyes said that the Philippines is now "in the midst of a mining revitalization program." Foreign-based companies from Australia, Canada , Japan, Korea , the United States, China and the United Kingdom have already conducted exploration and development of various mineral deposits in the country."

Reyes extended the invitation to the mining investors during the famous Indaba International Conference in Cape Town, South Africa." Six months ago in South Africa, I invited you all to take a good hard look at mining investment opportunities in the Philippines ," said Reyes, in his welcome address. " Your presence here today makes me extremely pleased that you decided to take me up on that invitation."

According to Reyes, the Philippines has natural endowments of metallic and non-metallic minerals. The major metallic elements are copper, gold, silver, nickel and chromite. To a lesser extent, the Philippines also has molybdenum, manganese, iron and lead.

"We realize that there is a need to transform these minerals into economic wealth and to realize from them incomes to drive the national economy and develop our local communities," Reyes said. He invited participants to the conference "to take a good hard look at mining investment opportunities in the Philippines."

Reyes said that in addition to incentives already available to mining operators, the Philippine Stock Exchange has liberalized its three-year profitability requirement to allow mining companies to be listed in the local bourse and raise capital through the stock market for local mining activities.

CBCP still sees Con-con as best mode for Cha-cha

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE OF the Philippines yesterday reiterated its preference for a constitutional convention as the best mode of effecting Charter change, criticizing the people's initiative and questioning the wisdom of a constituent assembly.

In a pastoral letter issued yesterday, the CBCP through president Angel Lagdameo said the cost of a constitutional convention, which could run into billions of pesos, would be money well spent.

A constitutional convention would involve holding an election to choose the delegates who will propose amendments to the Constitution.

"But it is worth spending that much for something that is good for the greatest number," Lagdameo said.

He said the government could be losing that much anyway through supposedly anomalous activities.

"We may be spending or losing much much more than that through government overspending and cheating and graft and corruption, which are very difficult to assess and account. If it is worth several billion pesos, it is worth spending in an honest way," he said.

Ruling party

Lagdameo also said a constitutional convention would involve the citizenry in the important process of changing the Constitution.

He said the Sigaw ng Bayan, a private group which gathered more than six million signatures in support of a people's initiative to change the Charter, was pushing the interest of the ruling party.

"The CBCP subscribes to the allegation that the 'people's initiative' is an initiative of the ruling power, and not genuinely of the people. From the moral standpoint, it is clothed with suspicion," he said.

The Sigaw ng Bayan has asked the Supreme Court to approve its petition for a people's initiative for Charter change after the Commission on Elections tossed it out.

Lagdameo is also opposed to Congress constituting itself into a constituent assembly to amend the Charter.

"A constitutional convention will be a better political exercise than the present powers-that-be, our Congress, making themselves a constituent assembly that can easily become self-serving," he said.

He also appeared to be opposed to the idea of changing the present presidential form of government to a parliamentary system.

"Any form of government will have its positive and negative characteristics, but the people who run the government are very crucial; they can either corrupt it or make it serve the common good. Will the parliamentary-unicameral form of government not be corrupted by the people who create it?" said the bishop.

Leila B. Salaverria

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, September 15, 2006
Our Lady of Sorrows

1st Reading: Heb 5:7-9
Gospel: John 19:25-27 (or Luke 2:33-35)

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister Mary, who was the wife of Cleophas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw the Mother, and the disciple whom he loved, he said to the Mother, "Woman, this is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "There is your mother." And from that moment the disciple took her to his own home.

Commentary

This is the wonder of our God in Jesus. He prayed aloud and in tears and submitted to death as a human being, humbly believing that his prayer would be heard. We too, follow in his way and learn obedience through suffering as all human beings do, as a result of our sin and compliance with evil, or at the hands of those who do evil or live in collusion with violence and injustice. And Mary, the mother of Jesus, learned this obedience in suffering since she was bound so closely to her beloved child. We are all revealed as those who believe in the way we respond to suffering in our lives. What secrets do we lay bare in others by our being bound intimately to the Cross of Christ?

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FILE photo of Batangas Vice Gov. Richard Recto taken in December last year.

BATANGAS Gov. Armand Sanchez: Seeking justice for the deaths of two aides.

Slay raps filed vs Recto...

From page A1

Ricky Recto and 12 others, including three members of the renegade Magdalo military group, for allegedly plotting to kill him.

Sanchez showed up at the office of Batangas City Prosecutor Leona Castillo just before noon and was joined by a number of his political supporters and other local government officials.

"I am happy to know that justice may finally be served [to the families of my two aides] who were killed because of the political ambition of my opponent," Sanchez told reporters shortly before he filed the case—two counts of murder and one count of frustrated murder—against Recto.

The governor, together with the widow of his late driver Luisito Icaro and a sister of his late police bodyguard PO2 Eric Landicho, signed the four-page complaint sheet. They were among the nine complainants.

Icaro and Landicho were killed when Sanchez's vehicle burst into flames on June 1 after a bomb exploded. Sanchez suffered serious burns and injuries.

Among those charged were three detained Magdalo members—Army Lt. Angelbert Gay, 2nd Lt. Aldrin Baldonando and Navy Lt. Kiram Sadava.

Also charged were lawyer Jose Christopher Belmonte, counsel of the Magdalo members, a certain Christina Antonio, Betina Balderama and six John and Jane Does.

Malacañang has linked the Magdalo group, which later called itself the Makabayang Pilipino, to the failed Feb. 24 coup.

Gay, Baldonado and Sadava, along with Army Capt. Nathaniel Rabonza, Army First Lieutenants Patricio Bumidang Jr. and Sonny Sarmiento, were arrested in early July at a subdivision in Quezon City where authorities found a cache of explosives and a blueprint of the Batasan complex.

Authorities suspected that the explosives and the blueprint were to be used to disrupt President Macapagal-Arroyo's State of the Nation Address on July 24.

Director Jesus Verzosa, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), said the political animosity and exchange of charges between Recto and Sanchez could have been the motive for the assassination attempt.

Verzosa and Nestor Mantaring, director of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), also signed the complaint sheet.

Verzosa noted two incidents that could have led to the failed attempt on Sanchez's life.

First, Recto had ordered the padlocking of the session hall of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan in May 2005.

Then a few months before the governor's Hummer H2 sport utility vehicle was bombed, the political rivals were involved in a squabble. The security personnel of the governor stopped Recto from leaving the capitol grounds after he allegedly parked his car in a "no parking zone."

Verzosa said the second incident prompted Recto to file coercion and illegal detention cases against the governor and two of his men.

Verzosa said he was confident that the cases against Recto and the other suspects would prosper in court. "We have strong evidence and witnesses against them," he said.

Circumstantial

Versoza, however, acknowledged that what the CIDG and NBI had were all "circumstantial evidence."

Recto was quoted in TV reports as denying Sanchez's allegation. He told the INQUIRER the other day that he and his lawyers would wait for a copy of the official charges before issuing a rejoinder.

Apparently, it was Belmonte and the Magdalo members who planted the bomb made of C-4 plastic explosive underneath Sanchez's vehicle, according to Verzosa.

The bomb, the CIDG chief said, was placed between the vehicle's floor and running board, near the gas tank.

Chief Insp. Reynaldo Rosero, a witness to the bombing, said "the placement of the bomb near the gas tank indicates that the bomber ... is highly skilled."

Capitol security guards Plaridel de Guia and Delfin Japor identified Belmonte as the man in a car who had asked about Sanchez's whereabouts a week before the bombing took place.

Verzosa said the CIDG was also talking to witnesses who supposedly saw Belmonte on the capitol grounds moments before the explosion.

Verzosa said the CIDG had recommended that Sadava be made a state witness along with Bumidang.

He said Sadava could be dropped from the list of those charged once the judge, who will handle the case, approves the prosecution's recommendation.

"Our role is just to recommend Sadava as state witness. The judge handling the case will be the one who will decide if Sadava can be a witness," Verzosa told the INQUIRER.

Felix Vargas, CIDG Public Information Office chief, said Sadava had signified his intention to turn state witness.

It was Bumidang, in his sworn statement submitted to the NBI, who claimed that Recto was present during a meeting of the Magdalo soldiers at a house in La Vista, Quezon City, in March 2006 during which the supposed plot to assassinate Sanchez was discussed.

When he asked Antonio what Recto was doing at the meeting, Antonio supposedly replied that "he can be a possible source of funds" for the Magdalo groups' destabilization plans.

Tet offensive

Bumidang said the plan to kill Sanchez was included in the Magdalo group's "Tet Offensive," or the conduct of bombings in public places to destabilize the government. The strategy, investigators said, was suggested by Belmonte.

(The Tet [lunar new year] offensive was a series of attacks by Vietnamese communist guerillas throughout South Vietnam in 1968. It took American forces and South Vietnamese troops weeks to retake all the cities captured by the guerrillas.)

The information filed by investigators said that Belmonte had explained the strategy as a possible source of funds for the Magdalo group and that "Sanchez was being targeted for being corrupt and a fund supporter of President Macapagal-Arroyo during the 2004 elections."

Sadava supported Bumidang's statements and said that he was once asked if a block of C-4 could blow up a Hummer.

Sadava, who is skilled at handling explosives, admitted to being part of the team that conducted a "casing operation" on Sanchez a few days before the bombing.

The team, he said, was headed by Belmonte.

Prosecutor Castillo has 90 days to conduct preliminary hearings to find out if there is a probable cause to file the case against Recto and the other suspects in court.

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Lacson: It's clear Palace protecting Bolante

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

MALACAÑANG'S SLIP IS SHOWING.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson yesterday said it was now clear that Malacañang was protecting former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn Bolante, tagged by the Senate as the chief architect of the P728-million fertilizer fund scam.

Lacson made the statement after Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo said in Belgium that Malacañang planned to protest the cancellation by the United States of Bolante's visa upon the advice of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

The US Immigration and Naturalization Service revoked Bolante's visa after the Senate issued a warrant for his arrest for repeatedly snubbing its investigation into the fertilizer fund.

The Senate committee on agriculture said evidence presented in its investigation pointed to Bolante as the architect of the diversion of the fertilizer funds to political allies of Ms Arroyo to ensure her victory in the 2004 elections.

No Ombudsman probe yet

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., committee chair, said it was ironic that it took a foreign country to apprehend Bolante while the Philippine government had done nothing to prevent his flight and make him answer the charges against him.

The Office of the Ombudsman has yet to investigate Bolante, he said.

Bolante, said to be a self-made millionaire who accepted a low-key post as agriculture undersecretary, is believed to be a protege of President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Lacson said Romulo's statement in Belgium, where he was travelling with the President, belied Malacañang's earlier claim that the government would only extend to Bolante the mandatory consular assistance.

"It only proves that no matter how they camouflage, their true colors will show. No matter how Malacañang proclaims they don't have anything to do with Bolante, their true sentiment will prevail in the end or at least when the heat starts to radiate towards their direction," Lacson said.

Legal fees

Lacson said it would not surprise him if Ms Arroyo's administration would even defray Bolante's legal fees.

He noted that Bolante had hired Azulay, Horn and Seiden LLC, said to be among the biggest law firms in the United States.

"Who is assisting Bolante in paying all his legal fees to the fourth biggest law firm in the US?" Lacson said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said Malacañang should not intervene in Bolante's case. He said Bolante should be returned to face the Senate investigation.

"I don't care why the US canceled Bolante's visa or whatever the Palace wants to do. What is important is that the Senate gets its hands on him. That is why he should be sent back here," Pimentel said.

US judge rejects Bolante's…

From page A1

for President Macapagal-Arroyo's election in 2004.

Roque said that the hearing started at around 3 p.m. (early Thursday morning in Manila) inside a small courtroom that could sit only six persons.

"We initially saw only the judge, the trial attorney and Bolante's three lawyers inside the courtroom," he said.

In prison clothes

Roque said Bolante—wearing the orange overalls of prison inmates—arrived later.

"It was a closed-door hearing, but unlike in LA, they were not able to get us to leave and we stayed in the corridor outside the room," he said.

Roque said he and members of the media got a glimpse of what was happening inside only when the door would be opened. Some of the reporters tried to eavesdrop by standing near the door; one reporter lay on the floor to try to better hear the proceedings.

Earlier, around 20 members of the Filipino-American community picketed outside the building and held up placards that read "Bolante go Home," "No to Kleptocrats" and "Justice to Filipino Farmers."

Roque said Bolante insisted during the hearing that he arrived in the United States with a valid visa, reiterating his stand that its revocation by the US Embassy was illegal.

'Weird situation'

However, Roque said Bolante's lawyers did not "positively allege" during the hearing that their client was seeking asylum in the United States.

"This is a weird situation. They have not stated publicly that he is seeking asylum but the proceedings are ongoing as if in an asylum case," Roque said.

"It is a very strange legal maneuver. They're stating persecution but without actually asking for the relief of asylum," he added.

Roque said his lawyer friends in Chicago told him that Bolante's counsel might have taken this tack to avoid the disciplinary action meted out to lawyers who file "frivolous asylum applications."

"If they formally ask for asylum and the court later deems it frivolous, they might have to answer some ethical questions and face disciplinary action," he said.

Roque added that Katsivalis also had a record of rejecting asylum petitions, with a "batting average of 12 out of 15" applications being rejected.

"At the rate that things are moving I think this is going to be finished by October," he said. The next hearing will be in two weeks.

Diplomatic protest

Roque also scored the plan of the Department of Foreign Affairs to file a diplomatic protest over the US Embassy's cancellation of Bolante's visa.

"That would be the actual proof that this administration is conspiring with Joc-joc to frustrate the ends of justice and that it has something to hide about the fertilizer fund scam," he said.

He said that the US decision to scrap Bolante's visa was an "exercise of its national sovereignty" that a foreigner could not question.

"Under international law, there is no right to enter foreign territory. It's always a privilege that is at the discretion of the foreign government in the exercise of its national sovereignty," Roque said.

What's in a name? 4,000 Chen Jies just in Shanghai

From page A1

common monikers, according to official figures released on Thursday.

That's become a problem for many with the name, wreaking havoc on school enrollments, residency registration, bank accounts, mail delivery and health insurance.

"Names are a civil right, and formerly were just a way of calling people, but overlapping names have now become a serious social problem in China," the Youth Daily newspaper said in a commentary.

Authorities have implored parents to choose less common names but insist that names be drawn only from a list of standard Chinese characters.

Following the 3,937 people named Chen Jie, the 3,751 named Zhang Min make up the second largest group of identically named Shanghainese.

While many Chinese characters are homonyms—having the same sounds but different meanings—"Jie" is especially popular due to its connotations of purity or cleanliness.

"Min" also reflects positive attributes, most often associated with sensitivity or nimbleness.

Purely in terms of surnames, Zhang comes out on top among Shanghainese, with almost 900,000 occurrences, according to data culled from identity card registrations.

Wang and Chen follow closely in second and third.

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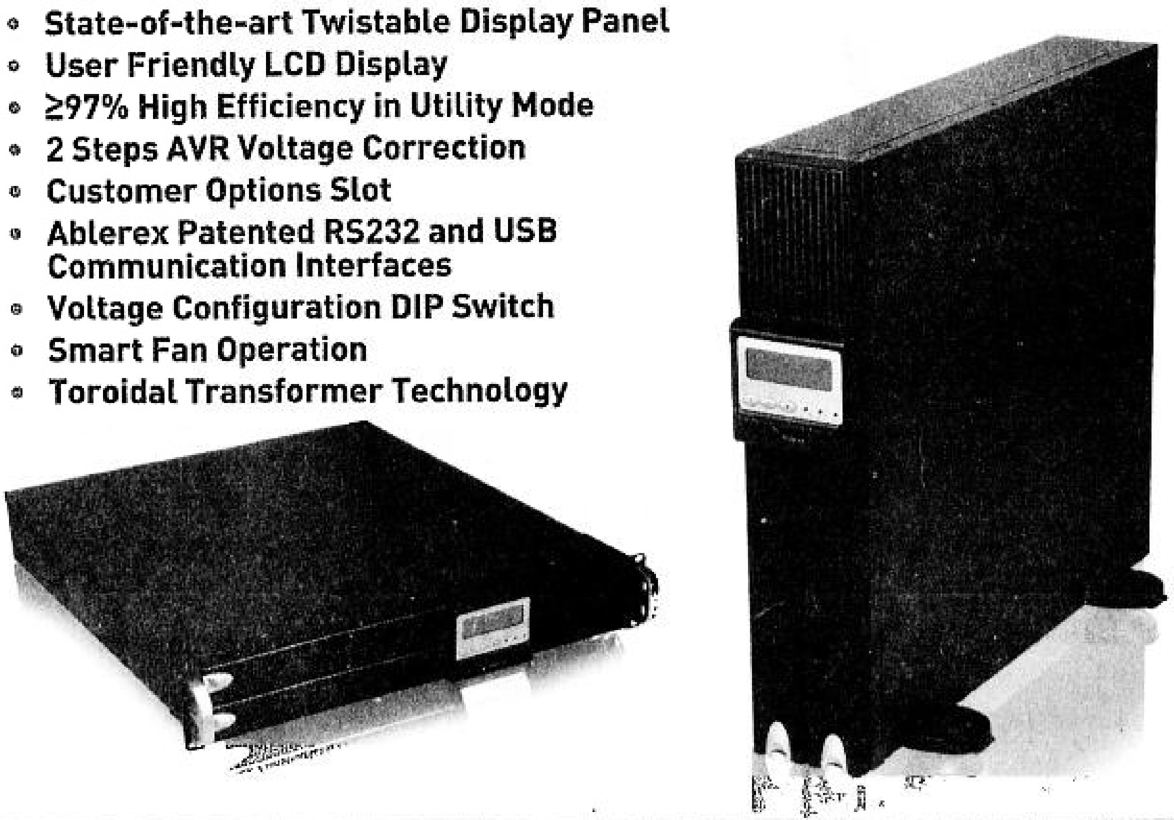

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TOO MANY COOKS. President Macapagal-Arroyo poses for a photo with cooks and waiters of the Sheraton Parklane Hotel Piccadilly in London. JERRY CARUAL/PCPO

She came to London, but not to visit the Queen

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

LONDON (via PLDT)—SHE MAY NOT HAVE been able to visit the Queen, but her London sojourn was no less special after the Duke of York hosted her.

A giddy President Macapagal-Arroyo told a gathering of Filipinos here how Prince Andrew, the Duke of York, cut short his Scottish vacation to have tea with her at Buckingham Palace.

"You know the Royal Family is in Scotland now for their summer vacation but Prince Andrew came here just to invite us for tea. He is now on his way back to Scotland to continue with his vacation," the President said in her address to the members of the Filipino community not only from England but from Ireland and Iceland.

Ms Arroyo and Andrew had tea shortly after she arrived here Wednesday afternoon. The prince, as the United Kingdom's Special Representative for International Trade and Investments, has been to the Philippines to meet with the President at least twice in the last five years.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that at their meeting, Prince Andrew told Ms Arroyo several British companies were interested in investing in the Philippines, in particular one energy firm that was keen on bidding for power plants and British engine maker Rolls Royce that was interested in expanding its operations at the Clark economic zone.

The President had a hectic schedule in London. Before having tea with Andrew, she visited St. Mary's Hospital to personally congratulate Filipino health workers there who were instrumental in saving the lives of a number of victims of the London train bombings of 2005.

From Buckingham Palace, the President met with the Filipino community to whom she disclosed her itinerary during her 27-hour London visit:

Dinner with Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. officials; a meeting with the Duke of Gloucester; a meeting with the non-government organization Coral Cay on assistance for the Guimaras oil spill; a meeting with executives of Shell Co. at the Mandarin Hotel where she was billeted, and a speech at the Asia House Business Process Outsourcing conference at another hotel.

To the Filipino community, she spoke of her vision of making overseas labor deployment a choice rather than a necessity.

"For that to happen, we want Filipinos to go home to a job and quality of life that compares to life abroad. That is our dream for the next generation. That is why we are working so hard to bring the benefits of the world home to our great archipelago," the President said.

Aside from extolling the economic gains of her administration, Ms Arroyo urged the Filipino migrants to reacquire their Filipino citizenship in dual capacity.

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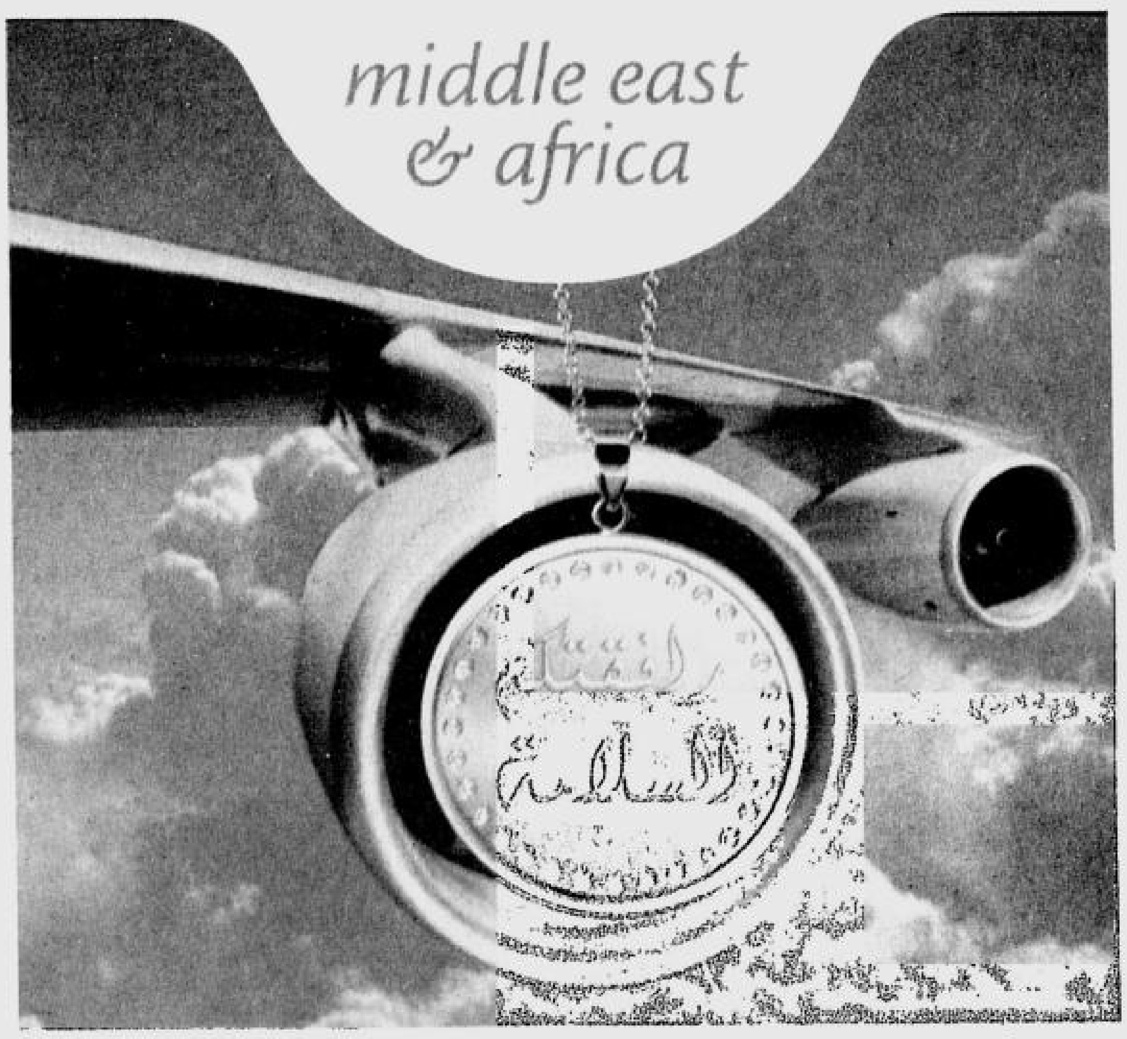

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AFP admits strong Sayyaf resistance

MANY of these Maranao women, photographed in a gathering in Baguio City, are unaware of a UN lobby to change local Muslim court laws to protect their rights. VINCENT CABREZA/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

ZAMBOANGA CITY—AUSTRALIA'S ARMY CHIEF secretly visited Mindanao on Thursday for a briefing on two fugitives behind the deadly 2002 Bali bombings, the military said.

Lt. Gen. Peter Leahy flew to Zamboanga where he was updated on the hunt for Omar Patek and Dulmatin from the Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) extremist group.

Leahy was informed that the Philippine military, backed up by US intelligence, have the militants surrounded in dense jungle on the nearby island of Jolo but are meeting strong resistance.

Regional military chief Maj. Gen. Eugenio Cedo told Leahy that the JI militants were being sheltered by Abu Sayyaf, a local Muslim extremist group, in the jungle.

The pair are wanted for their involvement in the 2002 bombings on the popular Indonesian resort island which killed 202 people including 88 Australians.

Cedo said more than 5,000 Filipino soldiers are involved in the hunt, according to military spokesperson Maj. Eugene Batara.

The US government has placed a bounty totaling $11 million on the heads of the pair.

Details of Leahy's visit were being kept secret and the Australian chief refused to publicly comment here or be photographed by local media.

The Abu Sayyaf, which has ties with both the JI and al-Qaida networks, carried out the worst terror attack in Philippine history when it bombed a passenger ferry in 2004 killing more than 100 people.

Muslim leaders in Mindanao said there was a need for what they said was global interfaith and cooperation if governments were to deal with terrorism.

"The future of the world is interfaith and cooperation, not extremism," said Dr. Mohamad Bashar Arafat, who was here Tuesday along with Tiye Mulazim, both of the US Embassy in Manila, as guests of the Notre Dame University forum on "Engaging Muslim Leaders in Peace and Development."

The speakers, both residents of Baltimore, Maryland, argued that religion is the cause of the world problem on peace, and it is also the solution to it.

A native of Damascus, Syria, Arafat urges Muslims and non-Muslims to exercise tolerance on existing religious differences.

"We should reach out and share to our neighbors love, understanding and forgiveness as Christians are also commanded by God. Islam is peace and Allah (through Prophet Mohammad) teaches us to act accordingly," said Arafat. *Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao and AFP*

UN group seeks more protection for Muslim women

BAGUIO CITY—A UNITED NATIONS GROUP is pushing for an amendment to Philippine Islamic laws to further protect Muslim Filipino women.

The UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women advised the government in an Aug. 25 communiqué to "remove discriminatory provisions from the Code of Muslim Personal Laws" that affect women, said law professor Lulu Reyes during a forum on the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (Cedaw).

The communiqué was issued in response to the country's periodic report detailing how it applied the convention. The report reached the committee on Aug. 15.

The committee said its primary concern was local Islamic rules that "permit marriage of girls under the age of 18, polygamy and arranged marriages."

"The committee expresses its concern about the precarious situation of rural and indigenous women, as well as Muslim women in the autonomous government in Muslim Mindanao, who lack access to adequate health services, education, clean water and sanitation services," it said.

"The committee is further concerned that the practice of early marriage is persistent among Muslim women... It encourages the State party (the Philippines) to provide increased educational opportunities to Muslim girls to discourage early marriages."

Reyes said local advocates may initiate the changes by writing to Congress about amending the Sharia rules of court. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Firms keep paying taxes to NPA, says cop exec

DAVAO CITY—BIG FIRMS AND SMALL BUSINESSES continue to yield to the demands of suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels for revolutionary taxes, according to police and military intelligence groups.

"Large companies, including banana and mining companies, are forced to give in to the NPA's extortion demand because they have to protect their business interests," said Supt. Ronald Dela Rosa, chief for Intelligence and Investigation Section of the Southern Mindanao police headquarters.

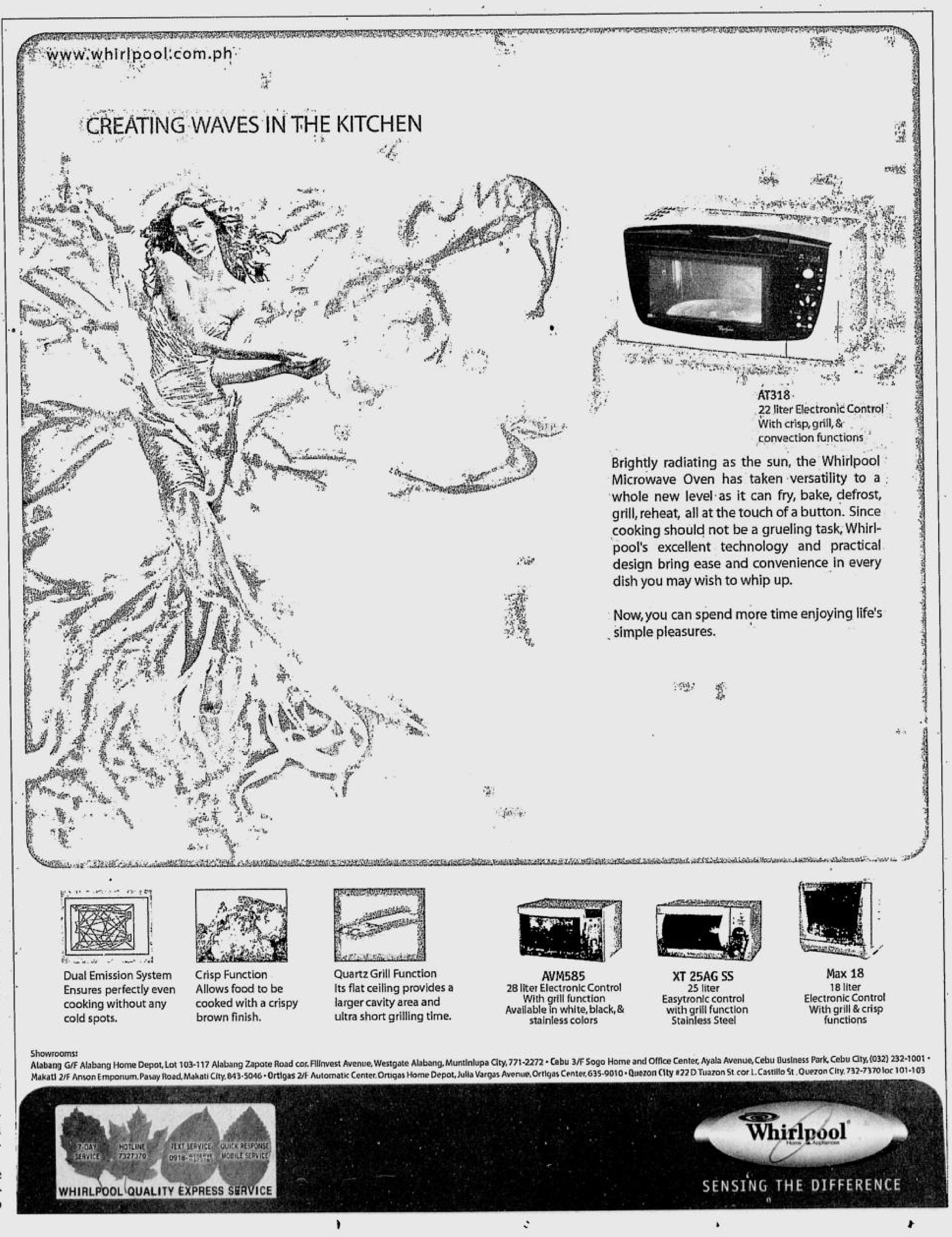
Other firms, even the new ones, Dela Rosa said, have to yield to the NPA's demand as a way of "peaceful coexistence with them."

"And despite the intensified campaign to weed out the insurgency, the NPA extortion activities have increased," Dela Rosa said.

Dela Rosa, however, would not identify the companies, saying they "don't coordinate with the police."

Maj. Jose Cuerpo, chief of the military's civil relations group in Southern Mindanao, said victims of extortion should immediately report to the police or the military.

He said development growth stagnates in the countryside because of the NPA extortion activities. *Dennis Jay Santos, Inquirer Mindanao*



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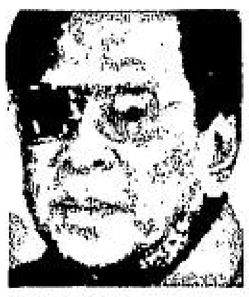
Chavit tells Abaya: Quit as BCDA chief


SINGSON

ABAYA

VIGAN CITY—ILOCOS Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson has called for the resignation of Narciso Abaya as president of the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) for "trying to justify the anomalous contract" granted to Poro Point Industrial Corp. to operate a seaport in La Union.

"He should resign now," Singson told the INQUIRER by telephone on Thursday. "He is doing injustice to the government."

He said he would resign as governor if it could be proven that the PPIC contract was advantageous to the government.

When reached by the INQUIRER for reaction, Abaya declined to comment.

Earlier, Singson told a TV program that Congress should investigate Abaya and the BCDA for justifying the contract that gave the PPIC 25 years to operate the Poro Point seaport for an annual fee of P50 million.

He said government lawyers should also be investigated for trying to justify the contract.

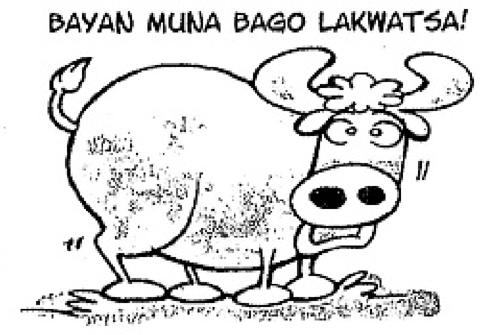
"*Ang mahirap diyan kay* Abaya *at sa* PPIC, *ayaw nila paimbistiga kasi makikita lahat ng anomalya diyan* (referring to the contract) (The problem with Abaya and the PPIC, they don't want to be investigated because it would expose the anomalous contract)," Singson said in a TV program.

"*Dapat matuloy ang imbestigasyon sa Kongreso* (Congress should pursue the investigation)."

The governor said he was willing to face Abaya and would expose the "anomalous contract."

But lawyer Brigido Dulay, PPIC legal counsel who was also guest in the same TV program, said Singson's accusations have no basis. ***With a report from Leoncio Balbin Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon***

Travel bug infects Agusan Sur town dads amid budget shortage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SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur—Several councilors of this town are pushing for plans to travel to Thailand amid financial constraints that are forcing the town to default on its electric and water payments.

Two council members, including Vice Mayor Joselito Bleza, strongly opposed such move but they were overwhelmed by most Sangguniang Bayan members who are raring to pursue the foreign trip.

SB member Alex Ranoco passed a resolution realigning P249,000 from the budget of non-office funds to pay for plane fare and allowances for the Thailand trip.

According to Ranoco, most of his colleagues wanted to grab the invitation of Gov. Adolph Edward Plaza to go to Thailand.

SB member Lito Tandog said he has not traveled in the last 12 years that he has been town councilor.

But SB member Arthur Palabrica reminded the SB members of the town's financial problems.

Bleza said the town has already received a notice of water and electric service disconnection for its failure to pay its bills.

Mayor Carl Elias Lademora requested the SB to realign P700,000 for the appropriation of electric and water bills and fuel needs.

Lademora sent this request to SB while he and SB member Fe Cebrian were on a foreign trip in China.

SB member Leonila Palabrica warned that realigning the fund intended for the payment of loans to the Land Bank of the Philippines was a violation of the loan contract.

The town borrowed P20 million from the LandBank to build a shopping mall. It used its internal revenue allotment as collateral for the loan. *Chris V. Panganiban, Inquirer Mindanao*

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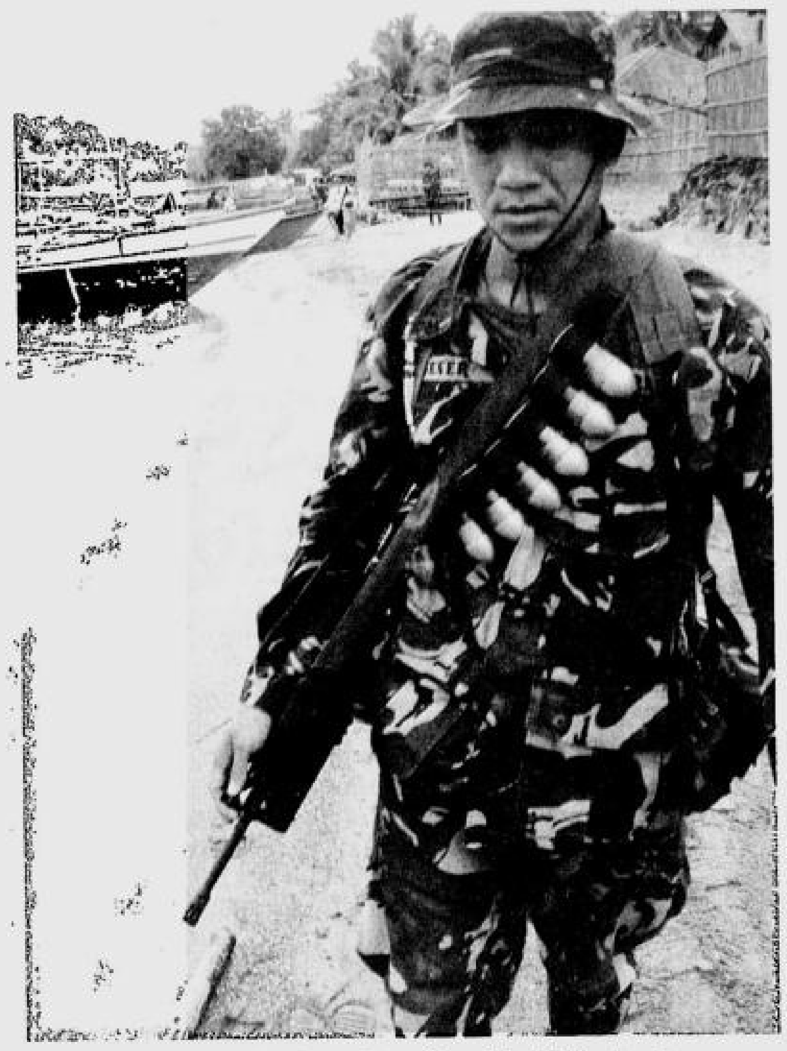


A MEMBER of the 3rd Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army patrols Barangays Tando and Cabalagnan in Nueva Valencia, Guimaras to protect Petron personnel who are releasing payments to residents for their work in the oil cleanup. ARNOLD ALMACEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

LEGAL FACE OF ILLEGAL GAME

STL-'jueteng' racket revealed

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMPANGA—WHILE POLICE were declaring Central Luzon "jueteng" free, operators of the illegal numbers game were experimenting with what sources said was a "new arrangement" that allows them to make money from simultaneously operating the underworld lottery and a government-designed alternative that works the same way—the small town lottery (STL).

Two INQUIRER sources in the police said the new arrangement could explain the lull in jueteng.

According to the sources, jueteng lords have agreed to run the state-sanctioned STL instead.

The first source said that not all STL bets are remitted, giving extra cash to the operators who, in turn, allegedly share this with police and local officials.

More money is said to be drawn because STL is operated side by the side with jueteng, according to the other source.

There have been no separate draws for jueteng because the winning number pair for the game was based on the result of the STL draw, the source added.

The new "tricks" are possible because STL and jueteng bear close similarities. Bettors are allowed to choose only two numbers from 1 to 38, in case of STL, and 1 to 37, in case of jueteng. Then, too, jueteng workers are the same ones employed for STL bet collections.

According to the first source, the current setup gives the STL license-holders the leeway to recoup their capital that started at P10 million and is now pegged at P20 million.

"*Yun din yun* (It's the same banana)," the source said.

But Chief Supt. Ismael Rafanan, regional police director, said Central Luzon was jueteng-free.

"It has definitely ceased," Rafanan said, citing results of field validation of the anti-jueteng drive launched early this month.

The police, he said, were continuing the monitoring of "bookies" operations or those that "*cabo*" (area managers) run allegedly without the sanctions of their financiers.

"We've got zero statistics," he said of the results of the campaign since Sept. 4.

On Sept. 7, the police in Tarlac announced that the "entire province" had also been cleared of the illegal numbers game.

"We have adopted adequate measures to ensure that jueteng will not resurface in our area of responsibility," said Senior Supt. Nicanor Bartolome, Tarlac provincial police director.

In a statement, he reported that of 20 persons, who had been arrested since July for illegal gambling, five faced charges for operating jueteng.

Rafanan denied that the jueteng-STL setup existed. He said what was really happening was an "honest-to-goodness" campaign against jueteng as ordered by Director General Oscar Calderon, Philippine National Police chief.

In Nueva Vizcaya, the League of Municipalities of the Philippines approved a resolution calling on the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, the agency that oversees the STL, not to approve any STL franchise in Nueva Vizcaya.

Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Melvin Gascon, Inquirer Northern Luzon

DND chief recommends ₱20M more for oil spill

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

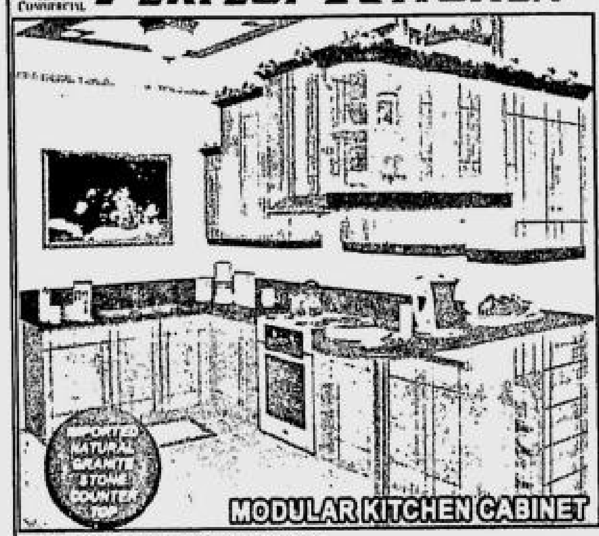
BACOLOD CITY—DEFENSE SECretary Avelino Cruz Jr., chair of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, has recommended the release of another P20 million to Guimaras, Iloilo and Negros Occidental for oil spill response and rehabilitation activities.

In his recommendation to President Macapagal-Arroyo, Cruz asked for the release of P10 million for Guimaras, and P5 million each for Iloilo and Negros Occidental.

Cruz said it was understood that Petron Corp. will refund the amount to the National Treasury.

He told the President that the Department of Budget and Management also released P20 million to the three provinces last Aug. 24.

The MT Solar I, carrying 2.1 million liters of bunker fuel, sank off the coast of Guimaras, triggering an oil spill that has hit the shores of Guimaras and two towns of Iloilo, and remains a threat to Negros Occidental.



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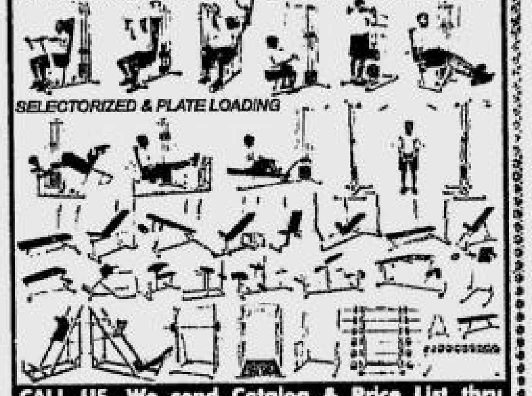

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'Breakfast diplomacy' worked for budget, says solon

By Michael Lim Ubac

IT WAS BREAKFAST DIPLOMACY THAT SECURED Senate approval of the 2006 supplemental budget that President Macapagal-Arroyo is seeking from Congress.

The Senate's passage of the P46.9-billion supplemental measure last Wednesday was largely a result of the meetings he had with his Senate counterpart, said Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, the chair of the House appropriations committee.

Salceda and Sen. Franklin Drilon, the chair of the Senate finance committee, regularly met over breakfast at either the Edsa Shangri-La or the Westin Philippine Plaza hotels for "chair-to-chair back-chanelling" on the budget measure.

He said Drilon did not propose to make any cuts in the supplemental budget and even agreed to have the measure signed into law by the President before Oct. 1.

The supplemental budget will cover the gaps in funding after Congress failed to pass the P1-trillion 2006 budget because of Senate cuts, forcing the government to operate on a rolled-over 2005 budget.

Differences between the House, which passed the supplemental budget quickly and unanimously last month, and senators critical of the President, again threatened to block passage of the measure. But the meetings between Salceda and Drilon took care of that.

Same budget ceilings

According to Salceda, there was not much disagreement between the House and the Senate on the supplemental budget. The same budget ceilings were set for the departments and agencies as the Senate merely shifted portions of the P500-million Lebanon repatriation fund to the rehabilitation of the areas around Mayon Volcano and the cleanup of the Guimaras oil spill, he said.

Salceda said prospects were good that the P1.1-trillion 2007 budget would be passed just as quickly.

He said the House appropriations committee was fast-tracking budget hearings, so that 70 percent of the proposed appropriations for government departments have already been cleared "with not a single deferral."

Salceda is targeting plenary debates on the 2007 budget bill by Sept. 26 and approval before congressional recess on Oct. 14.

The Senate on Wednesday night approved the supplemental budget almost in its entirety, except for the realignment of funds from some agencies to the Department of Education.

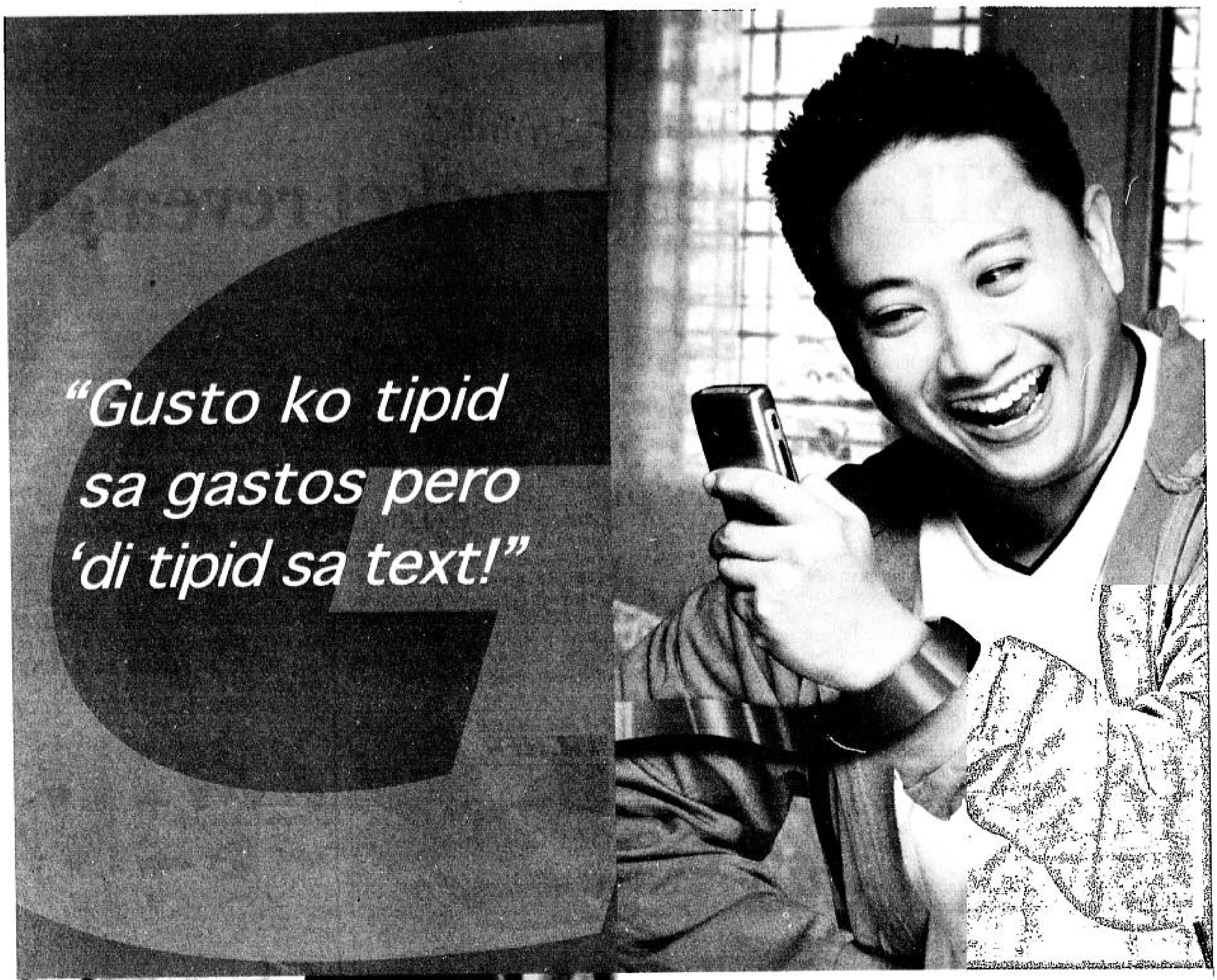
The biggest share of the supplemental budget, or P14.8 billion, will cover the increase in the internal revenue allotment of local government units.

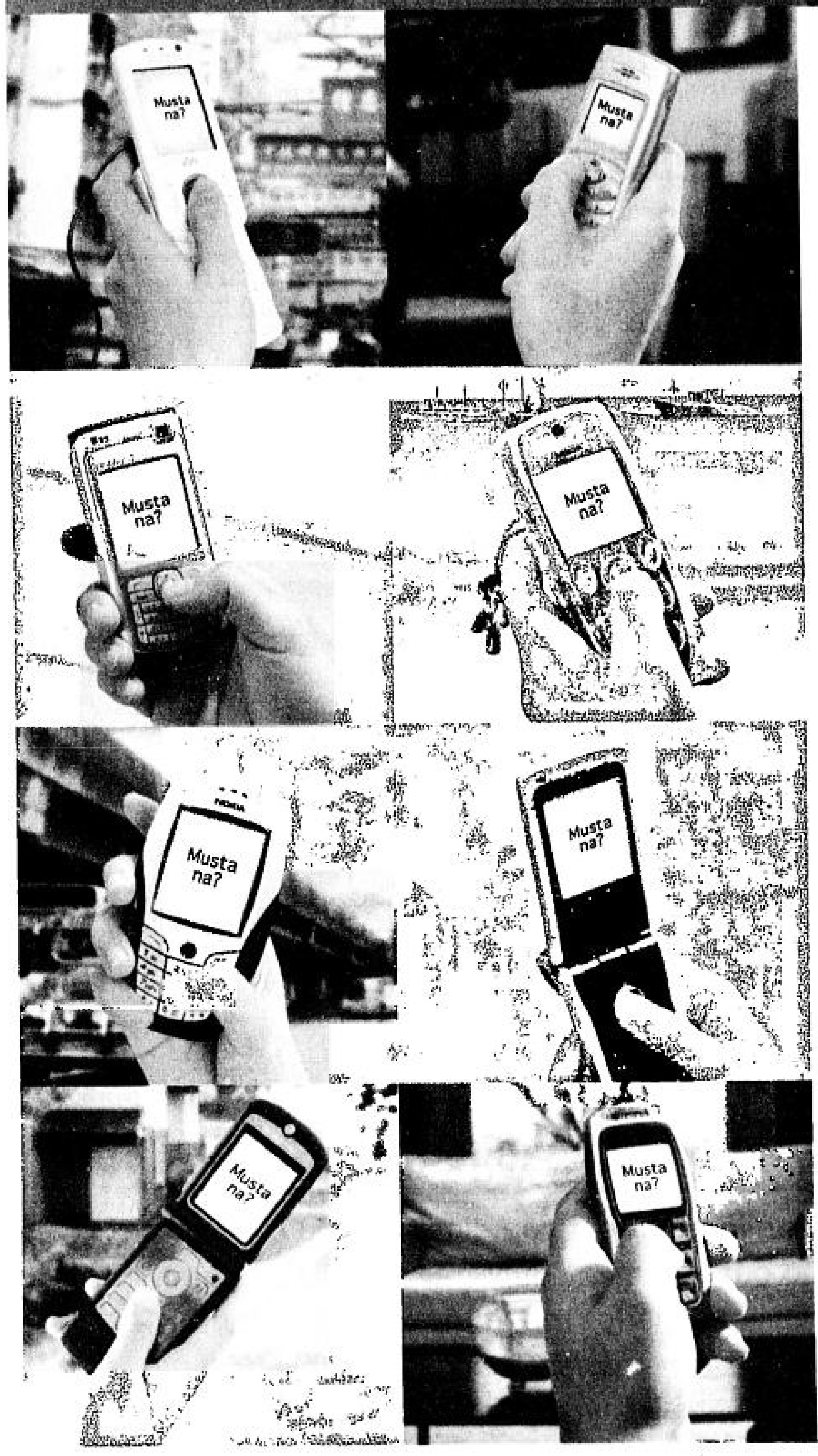
The DepEd got the second biggest share of P9.581 billion. The amount includes provisions for the hiring of 10,000 new teachers, the building of more schools and the payment of long-overdue benefits to teachers and non-teaching staff.

The senators also appropriated P3.3 billion to pay the national government's unpaid premium payments to the Government Service Insurance System covering the period July 1997 to December 1998.

The supplemental budget for the Department of Transportation and Communication was reduced by P2 billion.

Some P14 million was taken out of the Professional Regulation Commission's budget after the PRC decided against ordering a re-take of the scandal-tainted nursing licensure exams.





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Police officer, 7 men sacked for extortion

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE HEAD OF THE SOUTHERN POLICE District (SPD) antidrug unit, his assistant and six of his men have been relieved of their posts for allegedly extorting money from a Japanese businessman suspected of involvement in the drug trade.

Chief Insp. Vicente Raquion, team leader of the District Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (DAID-SOTF), his assistant SPO1 Delfin Macario and team members P03 Rodolfo Garcia, P03 Felix Mayuga, P03 Cirilo Zamora, P02 Dionisio Gastanes Jr., P02 Roberto Jovenir and P02 Bernardo Cobero were subsequently reassigned to the District Inspectorate Unit (DIU).

SPD director, Chief Supt. Ricardo Padilla, ordered the policemen's relief on Sept. 11, three days after Japanese businessman Masayuki Suzuki accused the eight of extorting P3 million from him in a Pasay City motel.

Two other officials—Chief Insp. Tito Oraya, DAID-SOTF action officer and Supt. Perfecto Marin, SPD-SOTF Intelligence officer—are also under investigation.

"They were not present during the operation but they approved it. They will still be investigated," said DIU chief, Senior Supt. Ronald Sabug who was tasked to conduct an inquiry into the matter.

Sabug, meanwhile, told the INQUIRER that Raquion and his men have yet to report to him since Padilla ordered their relief on Monday.

Possible suspension, too

"It has been four days but they never reported to me for physical accounting. If they fail to show up [today], I will recommend their suspension for being absent without official leave," he told the INQUIRER.

Supt. Michel Filart of the SPD Criminal Investigation Division said Raquion and his men conducted a test-buy in a motel on Sept. 8 following reports that Suzuki and several other men—known only by their aliases as Dong, Madid, Douglas, Arnel and Machian—were allegedly involved in drug activities in the southern part of the metropolis.

It was not clear whether the team recovered illegal substances from Suzuki. "We are still investigating the matter," Filart said, adding that criminal and administrative cases will be filed against the policemen should an investigation show the Japanese's accusation to be true.

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Binay still on warpath, dares Palace

By Tarra V. Quismundo

MAKATI MAYOR JEJOMAR BINAY yesterday challenged Malacañang to make public the status of pending administrative cases against local officials—whether they be members of the opposition or aligned with the administration.

"If the list will show that administration local chief executives received the same special attention that I got from Malacañang, I am willing to retract my statement," Binay said.

He accused the Palace the other day of cracking down on the opposition after he received an order from the Office of the President asking him to answer within 15 days the charges filed against him by his political rival, Roberto Brillante.

BINAY: Show me the list.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Brillante has accused Binay of having ghost employees on the payroll of City Hall, a charge the mayor has denied.

Railroaded?

The Makati mayor, also the leader of the United Opposition, said the case against him was being railroaded as part of Malacañang's crackdown on officials critical of the government.

The list, Binay added, must include cases filed against government officials pending before the Office of the President, the Department of Interior and Local Government and the Office of the Ombudsman. He added it should also reflect the action that Malacañang and concerned agencies have taken on the cases.

"If Executive Secretary [Eduardo] Ermita wants to reassure the public that there is no special treatment for the allies of [President Macapagal-Arroyo], then he should have no problem making the list public," Binay said.

Brillante, meanwhile, called on his rival to "atone for his crimes, instead of crying like a spoiled boy."

He added that he will present evidence to prove that "the dead, overseas Filipino workers in the Middle East ... continue to receive wages in Makati."

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NATIONAL UNIVERSITY IN Manila is the first private nonsectarian school in the Philippines. It was founded as Colegio Filipino on Aug. 1, 1900 by Don Mariano Fortunato Jhocson. When commerce courses were introduced five years later, the school changed its name to Colegio Mercantil.

The Board of Trustees renamed it National Academy in 1916. The school was elevated into a university in 1921, with Camilo Osias, who would later become senator, as president. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

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Advertising firm hits MMDA for dismantling billboards

By DJ Yap and Tarra V. Quismundo

THE ADVERTISING AND PROMOTIONAL agency of the Metro Rail Transit 3 (MRT 3) yesterday criticized the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) for dismantling its billboards.

Trackworks accused the MMDA of abuse of authority and grave misconduct for continuing to take down its ads at MRT 3 stations, as well as those set up alongside rail tracks, despite a court order stopping the agency from doing so.

"Despite our numerous appeals to the MMDA to observe the status quo rendered to us by numerous court orders, the agency persisted with their dismantling spree," Rosalino Marable, Trackworks president, said in a press conference in Quezon City yesterday.

Last Monday, the company filed a criminal and administrative case against MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando and other officials of the agency at the Office of the Ombudsman.

Trackworks officials said they filed the complaint after the MMDA wrote to their clients, asking them to remove their own ads and threatening legal action if they refuse to comply.

Sought for comment, MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said, "We don't know anything about it yet. We haven't received a copy of that complaint."

Asked if the agency has indeed been removing Trackworks' billboards along the MRT 3, he replied, "We have long been removing billboards along Edsa ... those that are encroaching on the road right-of-way."

Trackworks vice president Felizardo Lao explained that a preliminary injunction issued by Judge Luis Tongco of Pasig City Regional Trial Court Branch 155 in October 2002 stopped the MMDA from removing Trackworks' ad structures, including lamppost banners, fence murals and billboards.

But despite the court order which was later affirmed by the Supreme Court, Trackworks reported several incidents from July 2005 to August this year in which MMDA enforcers allegedly dismantled their advertising structures.

METROBRIEFS

Free movie tickets

SENIOR citizens in Quezon City have another reason to relax and see a movie. A resolution has been passed granting the city's elderly residents free admission to movie houses during the first screening hour. But there's a catch: They can only avail themselves of the free tickets on Mondays and Tuesdays. The 26-strong Quezon City Council approved the resolution, authored by Councilor Jorge Banal Jr., giving senior citizens free access to the first screen time of movies (usually 10 a.m.) in theaters. The resolution was adopted following an agreement between the city government and the National Cinema Association of the Philippines. Movie theaters covered by the agreement include those in Shoemart, Ali Mall and Gateway malls. There are 162,996 senior citizens registered in Quezon City.

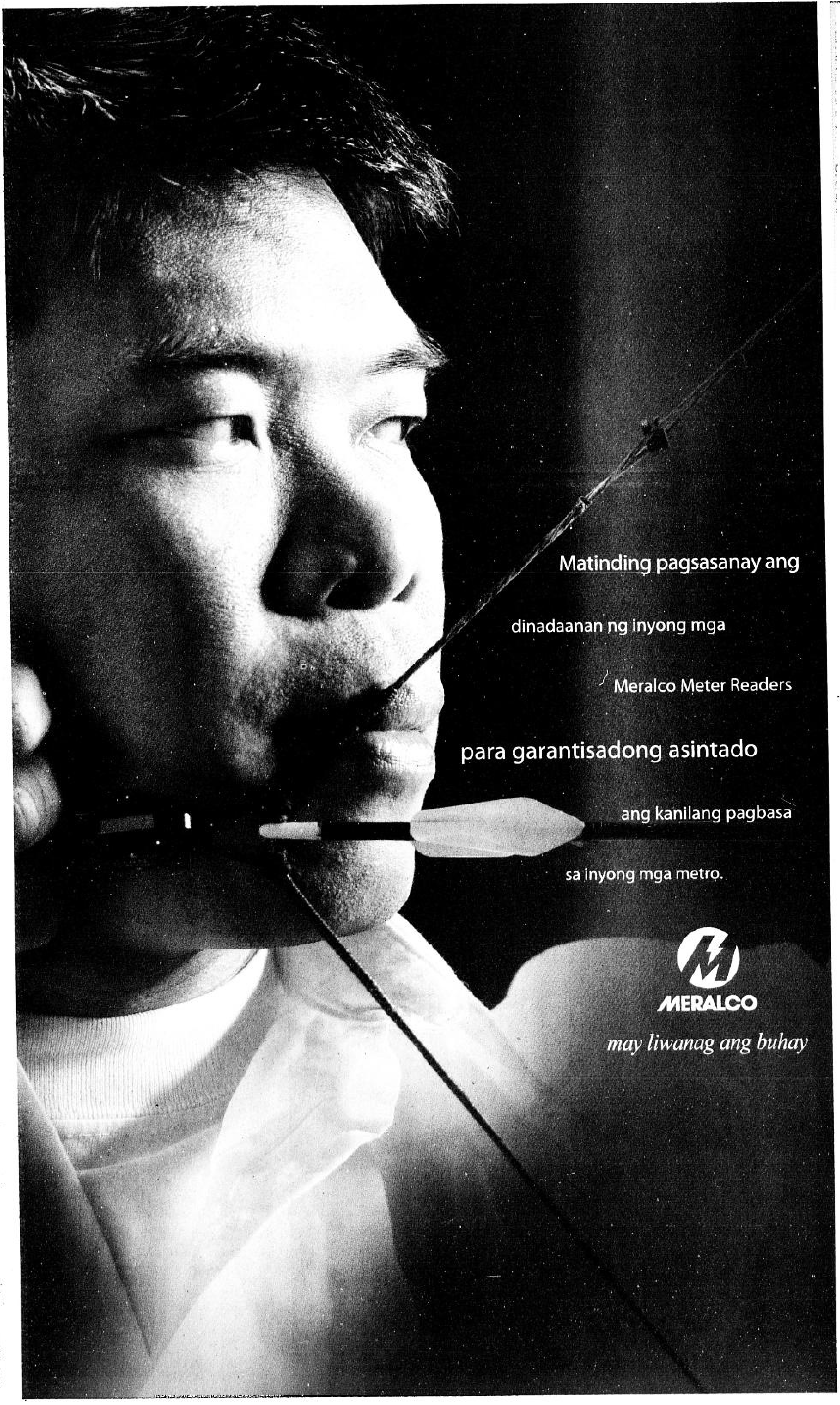
DJ Yap

Wanted: Blood donors

THE PHILIPPINE National Red Cross (PNRC) has stepped up its voluntary blood campaign efforts following the increase in dengue cases in Rizal province. PNRC chapters based in Metro Manila have scheduled blood-letting activities in different areas to replenish the organization's stock due to the growing demand for blood supply. The areas include Mandaluyong (Sept. 15) Barangay Lumot, Calauan and Malinta, Valenzuela City (Sept. 16), Barangay Bangyas, Calauan and St. James Parish, Alabang (Sept. 17), San Lorenzo Village, Makati (Sept. 18), Pateros (Sept. 20), Tanay, Rizal (Sept. 22), Mandaluyong City (Sept. 23), Pasig City and Binangonan, Rizal (Sept. 24), Pateros (Sept. 28), Makati (Sept. 29) and Camp Capinpin, Tanay in Rizal (Sept. 30). For details on how to donate blood, call the PNRC hotline at 5270000 (loc. 150) or visit the website at www.redcross.org.ph.

French flagship to visit RP

THE FRENCH flagship Var, headed by Commander Paul Massart will pay a goodwill visit to the Philippines on Sept. 16 to 22. French Navy commander of the Indian Ocean, Maritime Zone Vice Admiral Hubert de Gaullier des Bordes will also pay a courtesy call on Navy, foreign affairs and defense officials. Providing logistics support for French or allied carrier and battle groups on every sea, the Var carries a crew of 160 personnel, including 12 officers.



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Aside from the game proper, there will also be several booths where the public can learn about meter-reading and bill computation. They will also get the chance to find out which of their appliances impact on their bill the most through Meralco's Appliance Calculator and Consumption Estimator.

The Price is Light will be in the following malls on the following dates:

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SM North Edsa
October 7, 2006

SM Bacoor
October 14, 2006

SM Megamall*
October 21, 2006

SM Marilao
October 29, 2006

*Tentative venue

Russian central banker killed

Contract 'hit' downs official cleaning up banking system

MOSCOW—A TOP RUSSIAN CENtral banker who led an aggressive drive to clean up Russia's murky banking system died early on Thursday after being ambushed by gunmen in what law enforcement officials said was a contract 'hit.'

Andrei Kozlov, 41, Central Bank first deputy chair and a highly-respected figure because of his campaign to close banks accused of money laundering and other malpractice, died after emergency surgery for bullet wounds to the head and body.

"Andrei Kozlov died early this morning," Inna Sigeyeva, a deputy chief doctor at Moscow's Hospital No. 33, told Reuters.

Kozlov's department was closing banks at the rate of two or three a week and bankers saw a link between this and what prosecutors said was clearly an ordered contract killing.

Russia has about 1,200 banks, many of them tiny outfits with little capital.

"I believe this attack is linked to Kozlov's professional work. He had withdrawn the banking licences of hundreds of banks," Alexander Shokhin, the head of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, told Reuters.

"The financial and business community will react. Kozlov was a very important person for the government. I believe it is not difficult to find his killers." The gunmen were lying in wait for Kozlov on Wednesday night as he emerged from a stadium in the Sokolniki district in the northeast of the Russian capital after a soccer match between bank employees.

Media reports said the gunmen fired at least four times, killing the driver Alexander Semyonov on the spot and badly wounding Kozlov before fleeing.

He was whisked quickly to a nearby hospital where he underwent emergency surgery, but doctors said he died in the early hours.

In a car park outside the stadium immediately after the shooting, a pool of blood could be seen next to a dark blue Mercedes car. Nearby lay a body draped in plastic sheeting.

Russia's banking system grew out of chaos after the collapse of the Soviet Union when violence was a part of doing business.

One analyst said the attack showed the sector had still not shaken off its past.

Contract-style killings of wealthy businessmen and bankers were common in the 1990s but they tapered off after President Vladimir Putin came to power in 2000.

Koslov's killing is the highest profile attack in the capital since Anatoly Chubais, chief executive of Russia's electricity monopoly, escaped unscathed from an assassination attempt in March 2005 when his motorcade was attacked. *Reuters*

POPE Benedict XVI kneels as he and his brother the Rev. Georg Ratzinger visit their parents' and sister's grave at the Ziegetsdorf cemetery in Pentling, southern Germany, Sept. 13. AP

Pope enjoys private time at Bavaria visit

REGENSBURG, GERMANY—POPE Benedict XVI knelt in prayer at the graves of his mother, father and sister on Wednesday in the emotional high point of his six-day visit to his native Bavaria.

The private prayers at the tiny Ziegetsdorf cemetery outside Regensburg came on the penultimate day of the pontiff's trip, which the Vatican said had been reserved for "private time" for the pope and his elder brother Georg, 82.

Georg Ratzinger, an 82-year-old retired priest in frail health, leaned on his stick as he stood beside his kneeling brother.

The scene, screened from a crowd of well-wishers by a two-meter high hedge, was shown on German television. The pilgrims and locals were kept back behind security barriers.

The grave, covered in flowers and shrubs, contains the bodies of the pontiff's father Joseph, his mother Maria, and his sister Maria, who died aged 69 in 1991 after spending many years caring for Benedict during his time as a cardinal at the Vatican.

Following the 20-minute visit, the two brothers were driven in a cavalcade of black cars the 500 meters to the house in the neighbouring Regensburg suburb of Pentling. Benedict has owned the 1960s-built two-storey house since his time as a theology professor at the local university.

On Tuesday, he said he was "very moved" and "a little taken aback" when he heard how many people "helped to make my house and my garden a little more beautiful." Local woman Elke Pinter, 52, told AFP: "Ordinary people from around here have done up the house. They've painted it and planted flowers in the garden just because they were grateful.

"We used to see Cardinal Ratzinger walking around quite a lot," said her husband Mathias, 56. "None of us would have thought that this ordinary man would have become pope, but to us he's remained a nice ordinary fellow." The brothers had earlier had lunch and a brief rest at Georg's house in Regensburg.

The two brothers were to dine together again on Wednesday night, this time in Benedict's house, before the pope was scheduled to be driven back to temporary residence in Regensburg's St Wolfgang Seminary.

Earlier, in his only public appearance on a day mostly reserved for his family, Benedict presided over a ceremony to inaugurate a new organ in Regensburg's ancient church of Our Lady of the Old Chapel. *AFP*

EXTRAVEHICULAR ACTIVITY

In this Nasa image Sept. 13, astronaut Joseph R. Tanner waves toward the digital still camera of his space walk colleague, astronaut Heidemarie M. Stefanyshyn-Piper as the two share extravehicular activity duties during the first of three scheduled spacewalks. The astronauts and the Expedition 13 crew members are joining efforts to resume construction of the International Space Station. AP

Number of galaxies rise after the Big Bang

THIRTEEN BILLION YEARS AGO, IT WAS morning in the universe. On Thursday, two independent teams of astronomers are reporting that they might be zeroing in on the time that bright galaxies began to light up the primordial universe.

The number of galaxies, they say in two papers published in Nature, seems to have increased dramatically 700 million to 900 million years after the Big Bang. If true, the results could be a boon to theorists who would like to understand how galaxies formed and what stars they were made of.

The results also lend support to the prevailing notion of galaxy formation, which holds that luminous galaxies were rare in early times and that they grew from the assembly of smaller building blocks.

"This is a very exciting time," said Abraham Loeb of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, who was not involved in the work. "Advanced technology allows us for the first time to observe the opening chapter of 'genesis.'"

Rychard J. Bouwens and Garth D. Illingworth of the University of California, Santa Cruz, combed three years worth of data from the Hubble Space Telescope and found a tenfold increase in the numbers of galaxies over the 200 million years.

"The data demonstrate very clearly that there is quite a dramatic change in galaxy population over 200 million years," Illingworth said. He characterized those galaxies as "the seeds" of galaxies like ours or its neighbor in Andromeda.

Another team, led by Masanori Iye of the National Astronomical Observatory in Tokyo, which has been using the giant Subaru Telescope on Mauna Kea in Hawaii, found a similar jump in galaxy counts in the same period. That includes what they say is the earliest galaxy yet confirmed, just 750 million years after the Big Bang, or equivalently 12.8 billion light-years from Earth.

The universe was born in light 13.7 billion years ago in the standard Big Bang model. But after it had cooled for protons and electrons to combine into hydrogen atoms, the cosmos went cold and dark. *New York Times*

WORLDBRIEFS

69 corpses found scattered in Baghdad

BAGHDAD—Police found 69 bullet-riddled corpses scattered in and around Baghdad on Wednesday of men killed in apparent sectarian attacks as two car bombs left another 28 people dead. In the past 24 hours, 64 bodies were recovered from across Baghdad, with most of the victims shot dead execution-style with a bullet to the head, a pattern usually seen in the ongoing Shiite-Sunni sectarian killings, security officials said. Three bodies were found in the restive city of Baquba, northeast of Baghdad, and two in the town of Suweira, south of the capital. One of the two bodies recovered from Suweira was headless, while dozens of those found in Baghdad were handcuffed and blindfolded. A security official said most of the bodies found in Baghdad were discovered in the city's Sunni and Shiite populated west, which includes the violent districts and neighborhoods such as Mansur, Ameriyah and Yarmuk. Death squads from the two rival communities have brutally gunned down civilians on a daily basis in the raging sectarian conflict that has engulfed Baghdad since the February bombing of a revered Shiite shrine. *AFP*

German Cabinet okays Lebanon mission

BERLIN—The German cabinet on Wednesday agreed to send more than 2,000 soldiers to head the naval component of the UN force in Lebanon in Germany's first military foray into the Middle East since World War II. "The Cabinet has approved sending navy troops to patrol Lebanon's seaways. We are no longer only a spectator in the region," Chancellor Angela Merkel told reporters. "Our mission is to prevent weapons or parts of weapons being smuggled into Lebanon by sea." The decision, which is expected to be approved by the lower house of parliament next week, follows weeks of debate within Merkel's ruling coalition and much wrangling.with Beirut about the marine force's mandate. *AFP*

Diabetes seen crippling health budgets

LONDON—Europe's growing diabetes epidemic could cripple healthcare budgets in coming decades, particularly in eastern countries, an expert warned on Thursday. More than 53 million Europeans, or 8.4 percent of the adult population, suffer from diabetes. New figures from the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) predict the numbers could reach 9.8 percent of adults by 2025."The projections are that unless this epidemic is turned around, it has the capacity to cripple all healthcare budgets," said Professor Martin Silink, president-elect of the IDF. Most developed countries spend around 10 percent of their healthcare budgets on diabetes now. But the illness, which is often linked with obesity, is increasing at the rate of about 7 million new cases a year worldwide. *Reuters*

Hezbollah accused of war crimes

LONDON—Hezbollah militants broke international humanitarian law by firing thousands of rockets into Israel and killing dozens of civilians during the recent conflict, an Amnesty International report charged Thursday. The human rights group called for a United Nations inquiry into war crimes possibly committed by both Israel and Hezbollah, but their report focused on the actions of the Lebanese militants during the 34-day conflict. Hezbollah launched nearly 4,000 rockets into northern Israel in July and August, killing at least 39 civilians. *AP*

Anna Nicole Smith tried to revive dead son

NASSAU, BAHAMAS—ANNA NICOLE SMITH tried frantically to revive her 20-year-old son even after he had been pronounced dead by officials at the Bahamas hospital where the former Playboy centerfold had given birth just days before, her attorney said on Wednesday.

Moreover, she was so traumatized by the sudden death on Sunday morning of Daniel Smith, which local authorities have termed "suspicious," that she experienced memory loss, and had to be reminded of what had happened, according to a statement from Michael Scott.

Mother and son, along with her longtime attorney and spokesperson Howard Stern, had spent Saturday night together in Smith's room at Doctors Hospital in Nassau, where the reality TV star was recovering from the birth of a daughter last Thursday.

When Smith noticed, about 9:30 a.m. on Sunday, that Daniel did not appear to be breathing, she awoke Stern, who checked his pulse and immediately summoned hospital personnel.

"Unfortunately, despite their best efforts, the medical staff was not able to revive Daniel," Scott said. "Even after Daniel had been pronounced dead, Anna Nicole and Howard frantically continued resuscitation efforts."

Autopsy and toxicology reports will be withheld until the Oct. 23 inquest when they will be introduced as evidence, Coroner Linda Virgill said at a news conference Wednesday.

The coroner described the death as "suspicious" because it was sudden and because of Daniel's age, but cautioned that the scheduling of an inquest did not necessarily mean foul play was suspected.

"Whenever we have sudden deaths, and we term them 'suspicious deaths,' it is usual to have this type of procedure," Virgill said. The death would be considered suspicious until jurors determine otherwise, she said.

Anna Nicole Smith has been in the public eye since being named Playboy's Playmate of the Year in 1993.

In 1994, she married 89-year-old oil tycoon J. Marshall Howard after meeting him at a strip club. His death 14 months later set off a legal battle over his estate between Smith and her husband's son, E. Pierce Marshall, who died in June.

In May, Anna Nicole won a US Supreme Court decision giving her another chance to collect millions of dollars. *Reuters*

Anna Nicole Smith hugs her son Daniel in this July 31, 2004 photo. REUTERS

High-level UN meeting looks at consequences of migration

UNITED NATIONS—AFTER A decade of failed attempts, delegates from some 140 nations on Thursday open a two-day ministerial meeting on migration, an issue many countries once restricted to domestic policy.

But with more and more people leaving home to escape poverty, repression and warfare, or seek adventure or opportunities elsewhere, world leaders are more receptive to discussions on the impact of migration, UN and other experts say.

Nearly 200 million people, about three percent of the world's population, no longer live in the country of their birth, double the number of 25 years ago, according to the UN Population Division.

Most come from poor nations or those marked by conflict in Africa, Asia and the Middle East. Six out of 10 live in rich countries and one out of five lives in the United States. The rest flock to other developing countries.

But too often migrants find themselves in a life worse or as bad as the one they left, subject to abuse, exploitation or lured into prostitution in both rich and poor countries.

Jeff Crisp, an adviser to the UN refugee agency and co-director of the UN University World Institute for Development Economics Research, said the increase in migration had fueled human trafficking.

"The consequences of being labeled either as a refugee or as a migrant are very, very major" and could be life-threatening, Crisp told a news conference on Monday.

To coincide with the conference, Human Rights Watch issued a report on Libya, accusing authorities of subjecting migrants, asylum seekers and refugees to serious beatings, false arrests and a return to countries where they face torture.

Libya is the host for tens of thousands of migrants, who provide cheap labor and who either stay in the north African country or try to reach Europe. Libya is also one of many nations that need technical help in asylum procedures, Crisp said.

Still, migrants fuel their home countries' economy by $240 billion a year and spend more than $2 trillion in their host nation, according to a report by The Global Commission on International Migration, a 19-member independent panel.

In industrial nations, which often keep migrants at arms length, reports over the past five years insist they are anything but a burden to society. Rich nations, especially those in Europe, are increasingly dependent on migrants because of their aging populations and low birthrates.

At the same time developing nations are urged to initiate programs to keep doctors, nurses and teachers at home or sponsor exchange programs to make their return worthwhile.

"We need to think through what we can do to provide them with security, safety and jobs in their own countries," Crisp said. A dialogue on international migration was first proposed at a 1994 conference on population and development in Cairo. Two years ago the UN General Assembly decided to host this week's session. *Reuters*

Annan: Mideast sees Iraq war a disaster

UNITED NATIONS—UN CHIEF KOFI ANNAN SAID MOST Middle East leaders he recently conferred with considered the Iraq war "a real disaster," but felt the United States should not pull out just yet.

"Most of the leaders I spoke to felt that the invasion of Iraq and its aftermath have been a real disaster for them ... They believe it has destabilized the region," Annan said Wednesday during a wide-ranging press conference on his recent trip abroad.

However, he added that many of the same leaders wanted the Americans to stay in Iraq until the security situation improved, pointing out that "having created the problem they cannot walk away."

Other leaders, notably in Iran, felt that "the presence of the US is a problem and that the US should leave, and if the US were to decide to leave they would help them," Annan said.

"So in a way the US finds itself in a position where it cannot stay and it cannot leave," he said.

Reaction from the White House was swift.

"I'm not going to engage in a further disputation with the secretary general of the United Nations, but we disagree with the characterization," White House spokesperson Tony Snow said, while acknowledging that the "sectarian violence" in Iraq.

Annan, who returned Friday from a 12-day tour of the Middle East, said he was encouraged by the seriousness with which Lebanon and Israel were pressing ahead with implementation of Security Council Resolution 1701 aimed at shoring up last month's truce.

However, he said the war between Israel and the Hezbollah militant militia was a "wake-up call" for the Middle East that highlighted the need to tackle other pressing regional issues.

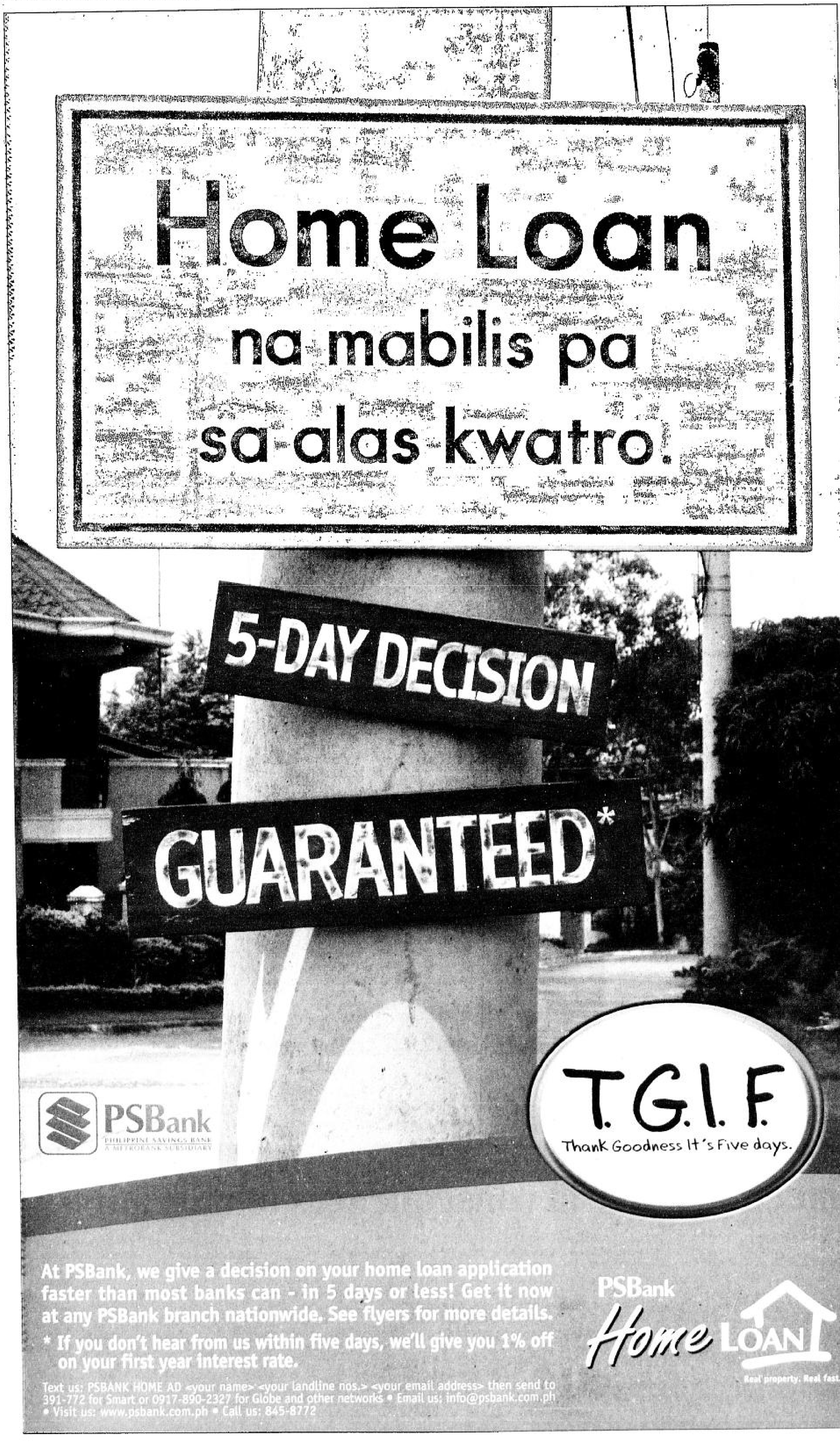
He threw his weight behind plans to hold a Security Council ministerial session here next week on a comprehensive peace in the broader Middle East.

He said the Arab League's proposal for the meeting, despite opposition from the United States and Israel, "should not bother anyone."

Annan said he had been told by the current president of the Security Council, Greek Ambassador Adamantios Vassilakis, that the meeting, tentatively set for Sept. 21, was not "quite settled" although "the vast majority of council members want it."

"I don't think the intention is to come up with concrete solutions but really to discuss the issue and raise awareness of the urgency of tackling outstanding peace issues in the region as well as perhaps asking the council to come up a mechanism or commission a report that will make recommendations as to how to proceed in the future."

To avoid further unrest in the region, the UN chief urged more transparency from Iran on its nuclear ambitions. *AFP*



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A WOMAN cries after evacuating the scene of a school shooting at Dawson College in Montreal, Sept. 13. REUTERS

Gunman kills 1, wounds 19 at Montreal college

MONTREAL—A GUNMAN DRESSED IN A black trenchcoat opened fire in a downtown Montreal college on Wednesday, killing a 20-year-old woman and leaving a trail of blood and injury as he sent students fleeing for their lives before he was shot dead by police.

Montreal police chief Yvan Delorme said the gunman appeared to have used three weapons and fired indiscriminately, until confronted by police officers inside the college's main building.

"The first policeman took charge of the situation, and shot in the direction of the suspect, and the suspect died," Delorme said.

Police said the gunman had wounded 20 people and one, a 20-year-old woman, had died at the scene. Health services officials said 13 people were taken to hospitals and five were in critical condition.

Montreal General Hospital said the 11 victims brought to its emergency ward had gunshot wounds. Six were women and five were men.

"It was the most scary thing that has ever happened to me," student Michael Boyer told CBC Television. "We ran out of the building as a SWAT team was coming in. They were screaming 'Where is he? Where is he?' And when you have 20 police running at you with guns you really know that your life is in danger."

Eyewitnesses said at least 20 shots were fired and reported blood on the steps to the college, and inside the cafeteria, which is on the second floor overlooking an atrium.

One television image showed what appeared to be a body under a yellow covering.

The shooting took place in and around Dawson College, an English-language school with about 10,000 students between the ages of 16 and 19 in the heart of Montreal, Canada's second biggest city.

Police initially looked for up to three suspects, but later said there had been only one gunman. They said the gunman was a Canadian, but could not say whether he was a Dawson student, or whether he had specifically targeted women.

The shooting triggered memories of the 1989 massacre at the Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal, where a gunman killed 14 women before killing himself, as well as of the 1999 Columbine massacre in Colorado, where two teenagers killed 12 other students and a teacher before killing themselves.

The Ecole Polytechnique gunman, Marc Lepine, 25, left behind a three-page letter that said feminists had ruined his life and named 19 high-profile Quebec women he wanted to kill.

Police said the gunman at Dawson began firing at 12.41 p.m. outside the college. He walked through the front door and continued firing inside.

"He said nothing. He had a stone cold face, there was nothing on his face, he didn't say anything, he didn't yell out any slogans or anything. He just started opening fire. He was a cold-blooded killer," said student Soher Marous.

One woman said the shooter looked like "the stereotype, with the long black trenchcoat and all the studs and piercings and stuff like that."

Students huddled in their classrooms behind locked doors on the third and fourth floors could hear the shots below. *Reuters*

WHAT'S INSIDE

UAAP Final Four: Eagles-Falcons, Warriors-Tigers /A30

SPORTS

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Pagunsan-Rosales ties for WC qualifier lead

JUVIC Pagunsan continues his solid form of recent weeks, powering the Philippines to the lead in the World Cup qualifier.

KUALA LUMPUR—THE PHILIPPINES' JUVIC Pagunsan and Gerald Rosales scrambled to a three-over-par 74 in the foresomes format on Thursday to join the Indian and Singaporean pairs atop the leaderboard in the World Cup Qualifier.

The Filipino tandem, one shot off overnight leader Hong Kong at the start of the day, stood at four-under-par 138, in a tie with India's Shiv Kapur and Gaurav Ghei and Singapore's Mardan Mamat and Lam Chih Bing.

Pagunsan and Rosales fired a seven-under 64 in

PAGUNSAN-ROSALES/ A30

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Villanueva, Yeo face fines for post-game row

VILLANUEVA

YEO

By June Navarro

THE RECENT SKIRmish that erupted between former Ateneo Blue Eagle Enrico Villanueva and ex-La Salle Green Archer Joseph Yeo will not go unpunished.

Villanueva and Yeo face harsh sanctions from the Philippine Basketball Association after the two triggered a near fracas following the Red Bull-Coca-Cola pre-season game Wednesday night at the Emilio Aguinaldo College gym.

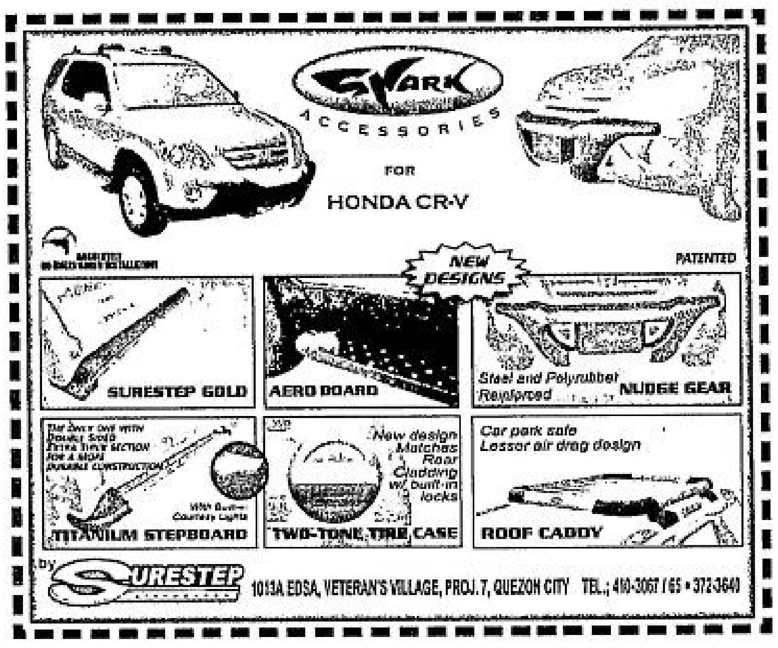
After the Bulls' 102-94 decision of the Tigers, Red Bull's Villanueva, lining up for the teams' traditional handshake at midcourt, gave the Coca-Cola rookie a hard nudge on the chest.

Infuriated, Yeo tried to get back at the 6-foot-6 Villanueva but was thwarted by the referees and the players from both teams.

"*Mabuti nga, iyon lang ang ginawa ko sa kanya* (He was lucky I didn't do anything worse)," Villanueva reportedly said.

Villanueva's act was seen as a retaliation by league officials. Yeo bloodied his nose during a charity game be-

VILLANUEVA/ A30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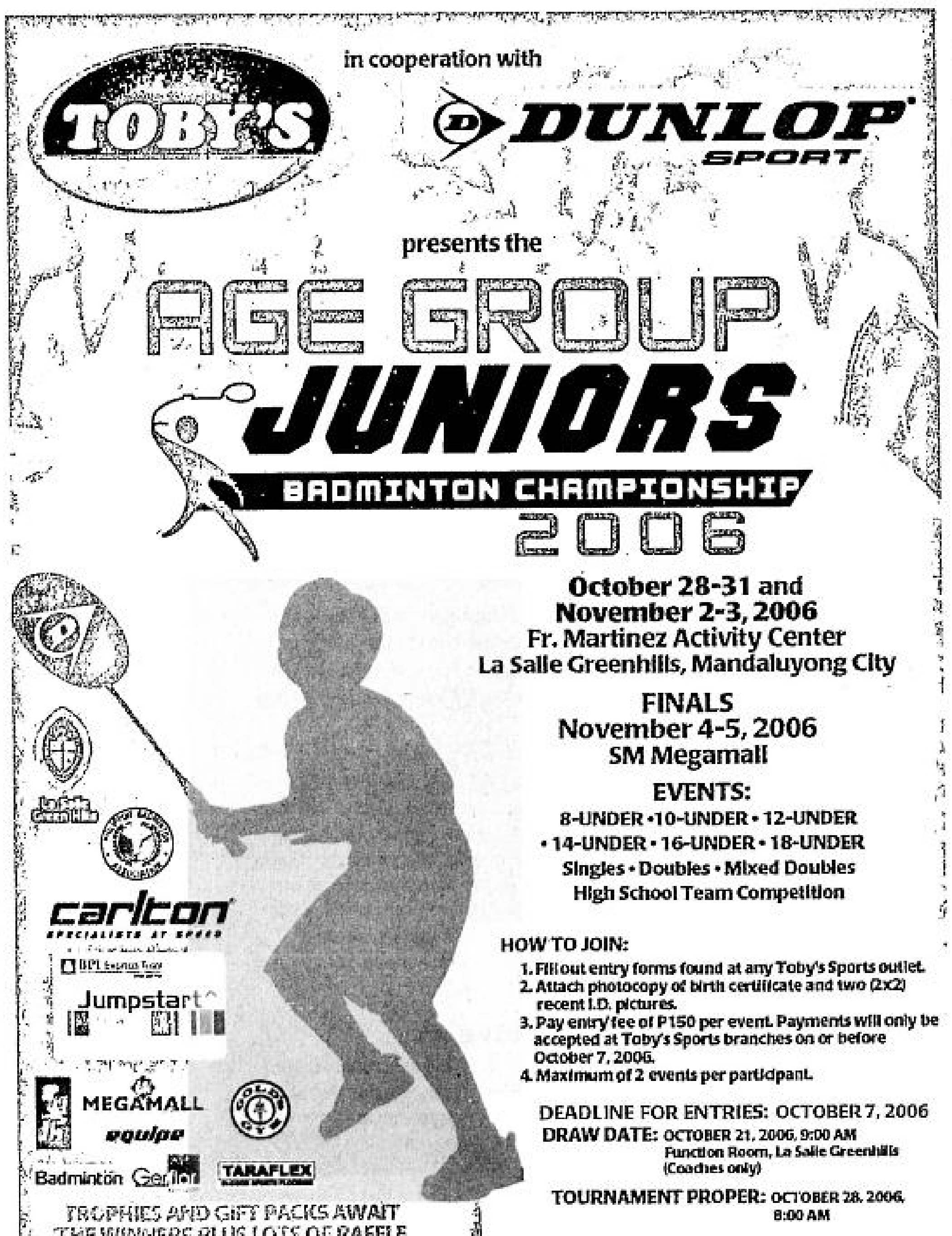
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Davao City A, 7 other teams post shutouts

DAVAO CITY—HOST DAVAO City A, powered by Grandmaster Mark Paragua and six-time RP Executive Grand Prix champ Dr. Jenny Mayor, blanked Holy Cross of Davao, 4-0, yesterday to lead opening-day winners in the 2006 National Inter-Cities and Municipalities Team Championships at the Atrium of Gaisano Mall here.

Other teams which scored shutout victories were Madrid (Surigao del Sur), Carrascal (Surigao del Sur), Tandag (Surigao del Sur), IBP Davao City, PNP Quezon City, Misamis Oriental and Calamba City (Laguna).

They won over Metro Toril, Tacloban EVSU, Tagum City, Igacos, BSC-Malaybalay, LA Kids boys and LA Kids girls, in that order.

Paragua prevailed with black against Mohamad Sacar in 31 moves of a Sicilian Defense while Mayor used white to beat Jogie Olita in 28 of another Sicilian.

Defending champion Tagaytay City was held to a 2-2 draw by Lanuza of Surigao del Sur. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

Amacu forges computer title duel with STI quint

GAME TOMORROW (*Rizal Coliseum*)
3 p.m.—STI vs Amacu (Finals: Game 1)

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CHITO JAIME AND PATRICK MERCADO LED a daring assault in the fourth quarter as AMA Computer repulsed New Era, 75-70, yesterday to seize the last finals berth in the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities basketball tournament at the Rizal Coliseum.

Jaime and Mercado teamed up with Jun Gabica to score 22 of the team's 26 last-quarter output as Amacu finally clinched the slot it missed the first time around Saturday, when New Era sent the Final Four duel to a rubber match.

It will thus be a "Computer War" when Amacu takes on rival school STI in the best-of-three championship series starting tomorrow.

The Olympians, last year's runners-up, easily took the first finals slot by beating Centro Escolar, 59-53, last Saturday.

It is the first title series minus University of Manila, which established a five-year dynasty.

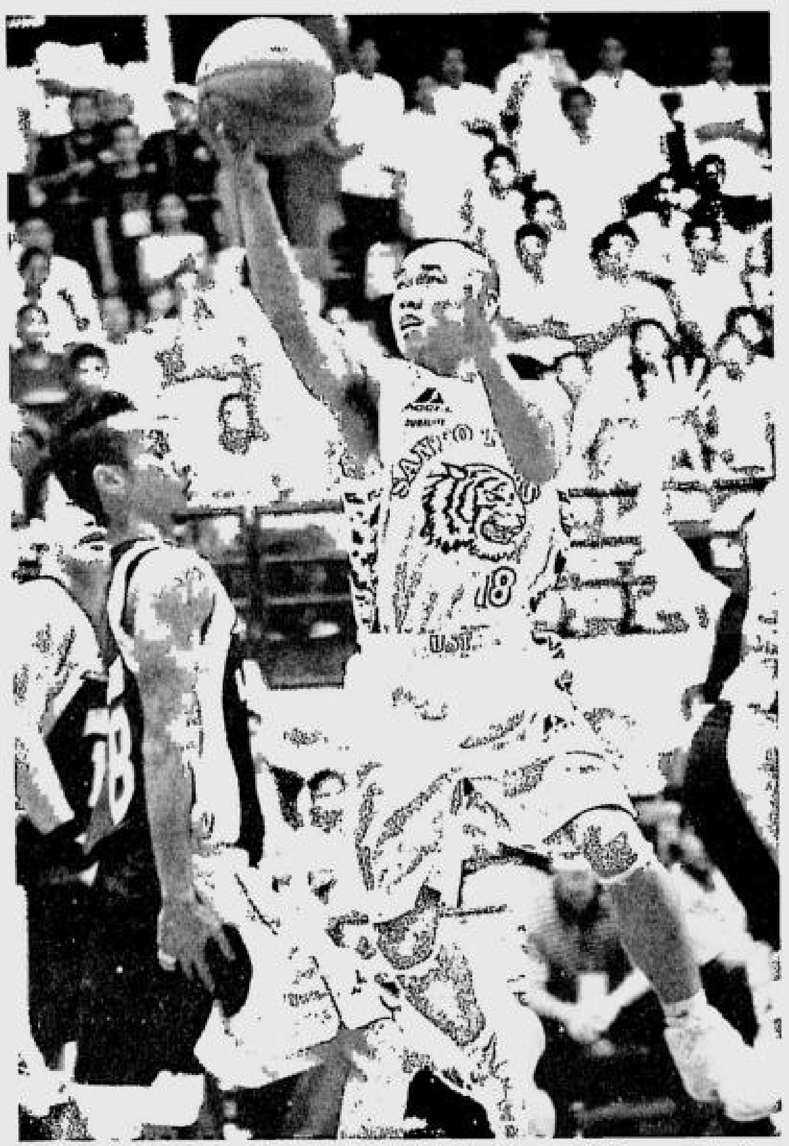
The scores:

AMACU 75—Jaime 21, Mercado 15, Gabica 9, Galvez 8, Abac 6, Franco 5, Vergara 4, Dela Peña 4, Galang 2, Suarez 1, Zablan 0, De Guzman 0.

NEW ERA 70—Perlas 22, De Guzman 16, Tengco 8, Ibay 7, Naguit 5, Alaster 4, lapid 3, Biollones 3, Mabigat 2, Maynes 0.

Quarters: 21-12, 36-33, 49-49, 75-70

UAAP Final Four: Eagles-Falcons, Warriors-Tigers


JOHN Cuan of Santo Tomas drives off Mike Young of Adamson during their game for Final Four placings yesterday. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By Jasmine W. Payo

SHOWING UP WITH A NEAR-COMPLETE roster, the Santo Tomas Tigers drubbed the Adamson Falcons, 85-71, yesterday to clinch third spot in the UAAP men's basketball tournament at the PhilSports Arena.

Rookie center Jervy Cruz came off the bench for the first time, but still topscored with 20 points aside from grabbing 14 rebounds.

Allan Evangelista and Anthony Espiritu ably supported Cruz in a dominating third-quarter run that kept the Tigers comfortably ahead for the rest of the game.

"If we're complete, we play well," said first-year coach Pido Jarencio, who impressively steered a crippled UST to the Final Four.

Adamson dropped to fourth place and will battle the top-seeded Ateneo Blue Eagles, while the Tigers will clash with the No. 2 University of the East Warriors in the Final Four this Sunday at the Araneta Coliseum.

Armed with the twice-to-beat bonus, the Eagles and the Warriors only need to win once to advance to the championship series.

After the Tigers wrapped up the elimination round tied with the Falcons at 6-6, Jarencio said he challenged his wards to sustain their winning form in the knockout tiff.

In junior play, the Adamson Baby Falcons disposed of the fourth-ranked University of the Philippines Junior Maroons, 84-78, to advance in the step-ladder semifinal format.

The Ateneo Eaglets secured the first finals berth after sweeping the elimination round.

The Far Eastern Baby Tamaraws, toting a twice-to-beat incentive, and the Baby Falcons will dispute the remaining Finals slot starting Sunday.

Earlier, the Ateneo Lady Eagles and the UP Lady Maroons forged do-or-die contests in the women's Final Four.

UP stunned the league-leading UST Tigresses, 72-64, while Ateneo nipped the second-ranked FEU Lady Tamaraws, 63-53.

3 title fights banner world muay thai card

RUSSIAN ARSLAN MAGMEDEMOV and Thai Wanlop Sitpholek clash for the vacant middleweight title in the main event of the World Muay Thai Council fight card set Sept. 30 at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City.

Another Russian, Ramazan Ramazanov, fights Kazakhstan's Teodor Sariyev for the vacant WMC intercontinental heavyweight title, while New Zealander Corey Gwalisi battles Poland's Rafael Simonides for the junior welterweight crown.

Licensed by the Games and Amusements Board, the event has been finalized by promoter and former muay thai world champion Dr. Geoffrey Van Es.

The 24-year-old Magmedemov and Sitpholek, 30, will clash for the crown relinquished by Bukaoe Por Pramuk recently.

Magmedemov boasts 86 wins and two draws against 14 losses while Sitpholek has fought a total of 185 bouts, winning 131, losing 43 and drawing five.

Also seeing action in the event, presented by Smart and sponsored by PLDT MyDSL and Mitsubishi, are cruiserweights Gabriel Rossi of Canada and Carlo La Torre of Belgium and junior middleweights Simon Hughes of Australia and Anat (Rambo) Samnakdee of Thailand.

According to Van Es, the WMC is actively involved in the global fight against drugs and has come up with its own "MAD" weight categories.

"We are still finalizing the list of [Filipino] fighters who will see action against foreign fighters in the event," said Van Es. "But we are sure local muay thai fighters will give a good account of themselves inside the square ring."

Pagunsan-Rosales ties for WC qualifier lead

From page A29

the best ball format Wednesday.

Kapur and Ghei took advantage of the par fives Thursday en route to a one-under 70, the only score below par on a tough scoring day at Seri Selangor Golf Club here.

Mardan and Lam had a disastrous start, four-putting the third hole for a double bogey five before they found their groove. They shot a 73.

Hong Kong, represented by James Stewart and David Freeman, slumped to 141, in a tie for fourth with Finland.

Pagunsan and Rosales birdied all three par fives but tripped on four bogeys and one double bogey and were relieved to still be in contention.

"It was hard," said Rosales. "The pins were really tough."

The third round will revert back to the better ball format before Saturday's final round which will use the foursomes (alternate shots) play.

The top two teams after four rounds qualify for the World Golf Championships-World Cup in Barbados in December.

"We've got our confidence back as we were both unhappy about the first round," said Ghei.

Second round scores (foursomes):

138—**Philippines (Gerald Rosales/Juvic Pagunsan) 64-74**, India (Shiv Kapur/Gaurav Ghei) 68-70, Singapore (Mardan Mamat/Lam Chih Bing) 65-73; 141—Finland (Mikko Maneros/Juha Pekka Peltomaki) 69-72, Hong Kong (James Stewart/David Freeman) 63-78; 143—Italy (Emanuele Canonica/Francesco Molinari) 68-75, Malaysia (Danny Chia/Iain Steel) 65-78; 144—Switzerland (Martin Rominger/Nicolas Sulzes) 70-74; 145—Taiwan (Lu Wei-lan/Lu Wei-chih) 70-75; 146—Holland (Ruben Wechgelaer/John Bleys) 73-73; 147—Pakistan (Muhammed Munir/Imdad Hussain) 69-78; 148—Ghana (Emos Korblah/Victo Brave Mensah) 69-79; 150—Myanmar (Zaw Moe/Soe Kyaw Naing) 72-78. *AFP*

PSC chair on sick leave

RAMIREZ

CHAIR BUTCH RAMIREZ OF THE Philippine Sports Commission has filed a one-week leave of absence citing health and family reasons, according to his executive assistant, Joseph Encabo, yesterday.

The PSC chief reportedly went to his hometown in Davao City to undergo medical checkups.

Some of his critics, however, claim that Ramirez's decision to take a leave had something to do with a graft case reportedly filed against him before the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission early this year.

Ramirez has already brushed off the case, which arose from the PSC's alleged mishandling of funds paid to the agency by Brent International School for its lease on facilities at the PSC-administered PhilSports complex in Pasig. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

Villanueva, Yeo face . . .

From page A29

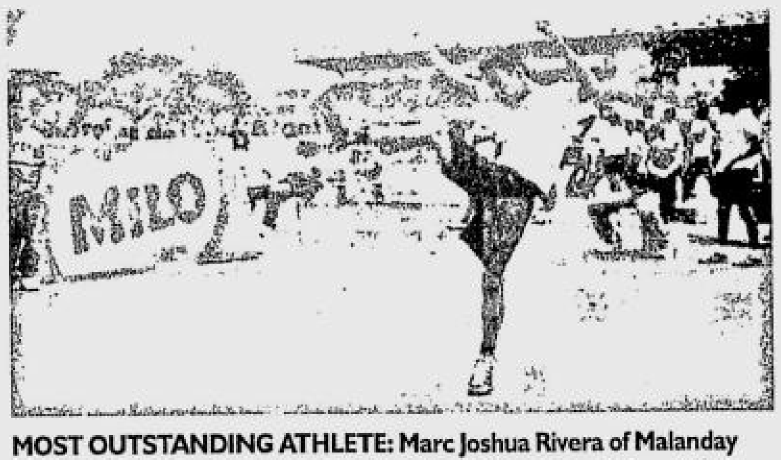
tween Ateneo and La Salle last year.

"We cannot allow that to happen again," said PBA technical chief Perry Martinez, who will recommend penalties to commissioner Noli Eala.

"He's still angry with Joseph (Yeo)," added Martinez after getting the side of Villanueva. "But their acts are unacceptable. This was not the last time they will see each other on the court. Both of them have to get over it and move on."

The incident happened a week after Mac Cardona of Talk 'N Text was slapped a P5,000 fine and Sta. Lucia Realty's Cesar Catli P1,000 for figuring in a shoving incident during another preseason game.

SPORTSWATCH



MOST OUTSTANDING ATHLETE: Marc Joshua Rivera of Malanday Elementary School in action in the sepak takraw competition of the 2006 Milo Little Olympics at the Marikina Sports Park. Rivera won the coveted most outstanding athlete award in the CTW-organized event.

100 fights on tap in Pasay stagfest

THE SECOND LEG OF THE PASAY COCKPIT COCKERS ASSOCIATION (PCCA) 5-stag derby series gets going at 3 p.m. today at Pasay City Cockpit with more than 100 fights on the roster. Seeing action in today's showdown, sponsored by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, are 36 PCCA members and guest participants from Negros Occidental, Davao and Cebu. Boy Javier of Makati (Daboy entry) and Ric de Guzman (Coffee King Binangonan) topped the first leg last Sept. 1 with five victories each. Cockers and breeders wishing to vie in coming PCCA derbies must field stags wing-banded by the Labanan Group, PCAP or NFGB Bakbakan. For inquiries, call 843-1890, 843-1746 or 816-6750.

PCAP third leg kicks off Monday

A NEW BATCH OF BATTLECROSSES TAKES CENTER STAGE MONDAY WHEN the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) holds the third leg of its 5-stag derby at the Makati Coliseum with B-Meg Derby Ace as sponsor. Promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co said participants can again expect tough fights. Last Monday, Rainier Kau of Ilocos Sur bagged the second leg's solo championship after his entry, GCM 127 Fort Ilocandia, finished with a 5-0 (win-loss) slate. Kau, a regular PCAP member, is best known for his victory in the NFGB National Bakbakan 8-Stag Derby in 2003. Meanwhile, the next PCAP events have been set for Oct. 2, 9, 16, 21 and 28. For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 895-6475.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—Express Strike (2), Noble Principality (3), Can And Will (4)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Balwarte (8), Big Spender (1), District Three (4), Bull Rider (7), Regent Skipper (5)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Sa Wakas (1), Rock Attack Attack (6), Western Dancer (2), Kiwi Rose (3)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Fujioka (6), Kalmia (4), Super Wind (3), Arctic Desert (1)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Bold Water (2), Xangie's Halo (5), Audrey's Temper (1), Chelseasmile (4)
Race 6—(Tri)—Don't Tell Ella (1), Tigres In Action (2), Chance For Us (4)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Somos O No Somos (7), Tervalak/Uncle Buck (4), Makati Haven (2), Pabilic Express (5)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Don King (1), Carmelita (3), Head Turner (5), Don Ramon (6)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Whistle Blower (3), Dalidali (8), Awesome Power (2), Nico's In Charge (7), Gutsy (4), Archer (6)

Bata Reyes in the eyes of his peers

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

SOFT-SPOKEN Efren "Bata" Reyes has persevered through adversity and now ranks as the world's greatest billiards player.

Just recently, he won the IPT World 8-Ball Championship in Reno, Nevada by beating American Rodney Morris, 8-6, and pocketing $500,000, the biggest paycheck in the history of the sport. And barely two weeks before that, he topped the World Cup of Pool in a teamup with longtime partner and *kumpadre*, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, in South Wales, Britain.

Since 1985, when Reyes, then 29, won his first tournament in the United States—the Red's 9-Ball Open in Houston, Texas—his impact on the world billiards scene has been tremendous. More so now when he is already 52 years old.

"I thought he was just a local kid from the 'Little Mexico' area of Houston," recalled Red's 9-Ball tournament director Scott Smith of Reyes, a skinny foreigner from Manila with a scraggly moustache and a shortage of teeth who signed up as "Carlos Morales" when he plunked down his entry fee of $75.

Then virtually unknown, Reyes was put on a table in the back of the cavernous hall, where few people would witness his opening match against American Wade Crane, who also entered the tournament using a cover: Billy Johnson. "They thought I couldn't play," Reyes laughed at the recollection.

By the fourth round of the 96-player tourney, the mystery man from Manila had made mincemeat of the opposition. Wrote Mike Panozzo of Billiards Digest: "Reyes' exaggerated, roller-coaster stroke, merciless safeties, accurate jump shots and mind-bending kick shots (which earned him the moniker "The Magician") had the aficionados and pros alike confounded. Who was this Morales? Where did he learn all those wild shots?"

Never before had the crop of American 9-ball players seen the likes of Reyes. With his cover as Cesar Morales finally blown, Reyes became the rage of the American pool scene. Crowds were always largest at the venues where Reyes played, including many US-based Filipino supporters who rooted for him.

Word of his skills preceded Reyes as far back as 1978. Book author John Grissim, a world traveler from California, wrote about the Filipino cue artist after losing a money game during a stop in Manila. Said Grissim: "He had the smooth motion and subtle touch that characterize excellent players everywhere, regardless of age or nationality. As I was leaving, I was told he was the No. 2-ranked player in the Philippines (the top player then was Jose 'Amang' Parica). His name was Efren Reyes."

Back in the United States, Grissim warned leading American pros Jay Helfert and Jimmy Rempe about players in the Philippines who would beat them some day. "We just flat out and laughed at him," replied Helfert. "Come on, John, I know the best players in the Orient are the Japanese, and we've seen them play. When he told us he meant the Philippines we told him he was crazy. Now we are paying the price."

"His (Reyes) style was so drastically different," said the legendary Nick Varner, a two-time Billiards Digest Player of the Year. "He attracted a lot of attention. And he had a big impact on the way we Americans played the game."

Another American player, the now retired Mike Sigel, said, "Reyes was too intimidating given his 5-foot-7 frame. You couldn't communicate with him, because he speaks little English then. And his stroke and style were so different that they scared opponents."

Many-time world champion Earl Strickland, the flamboyant American who is also Reyes' arch rival, said, "I think he's the greatest player in the world. What else can you say? He plays you and he beats you."

Even his Puyat Sports teammates readily acknowledge this fact. "Oh, Efren, he's really good, very good," said Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat. "We all learned from him."

"I learned so much from watching him," added Bustamante. "And after we had played, he would show me what I did wrong. And he'd show me other things, set up other shots to teach me something new. To me, he's the greatest player who ever lived."

"Reyes is truly an inspiration, especially to the less fortunate Filipinos," said sports patron Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, the godfather of Philippine billiards. "It's nice to see a man with humble beginnings to be a source of pride and joy to the whole nation."

As esteemed columnist Conrado de Quiros once wrote, "Elsewhere in the world, people now remember the Philippines only for two things—Edsa and Bata. And I don't know which one they hold in more awe. As someone told me recently, mention the word 'Filipino' to a taxi driver in Europe, and he will hold an imaginary billiard stick in his hand and say, "Bata."

Lunas KOs Indon in 1st round

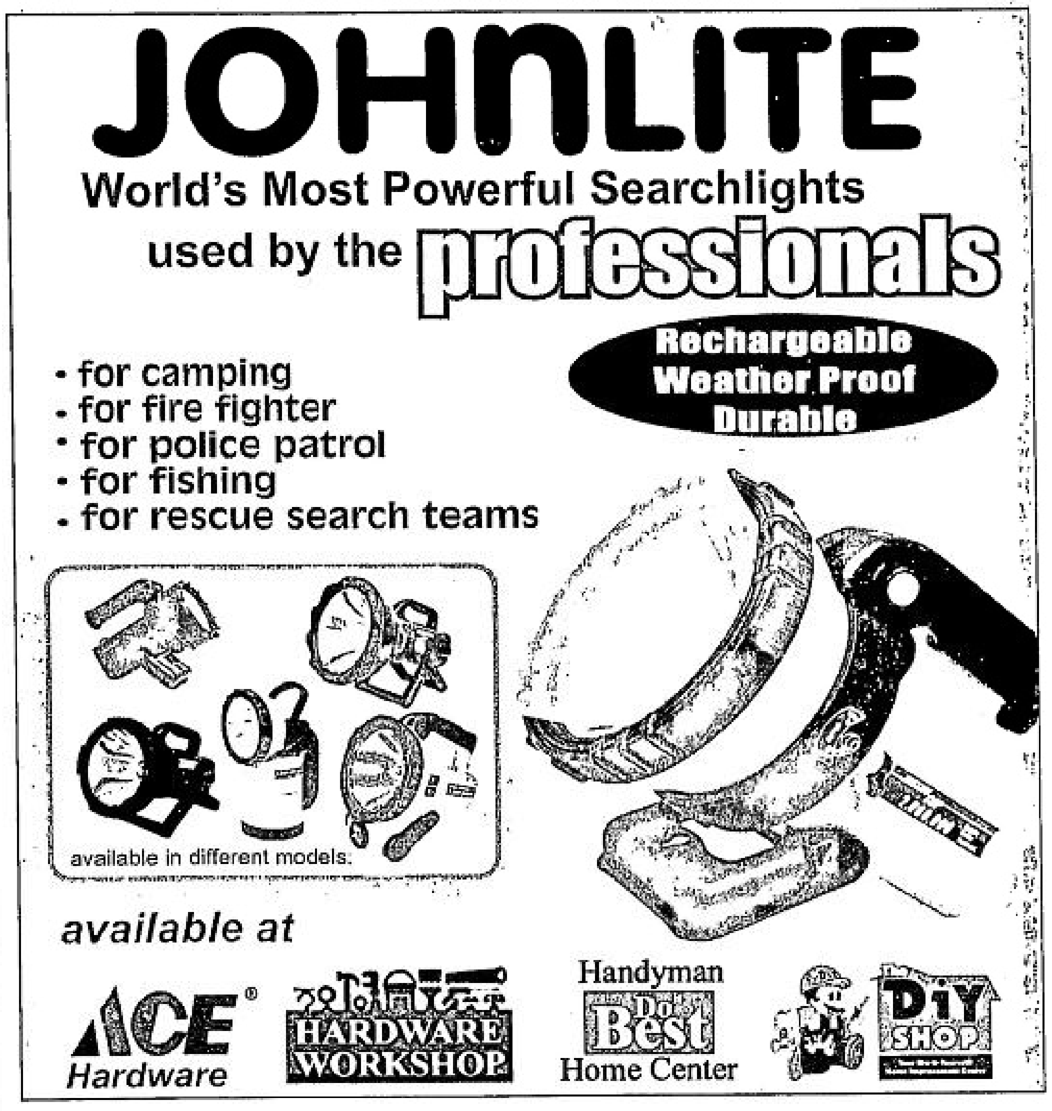
FORMER PAN-ASIA BOXING ASSOCIation (Paba) flyweight king Rolly Lunas returned to winning form with a first-round demolition of OPBF No. 5 bantamweight Billy Wuwungan of Indonesia in the main event of a card held Tuesday night at the famed Korakuen Hall in Tokyo, Japan.

Lunas used a crisp left jab at the start of the round, then followed it up with accurate left-right combinations.

Lunas then pinned Wuwungan on the ropes with several short combinations, and when the Indonesian momentarily put down his guard, a big Lunas right to the chin sent him down for the first time.

Wuwungan got up, but Lunas again hit him with another right to the chin to score another knockdown. The Indonesian fighter rose a second time, only to be downed by another shot to the chin that led to the automatic victory at the 45-second mark of the first round.

The win improved Lunas' record to 20 wins against 6 losses and 1 draw with 11 KOs. *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*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Lyon devours Real

Manchester U escapes via thriller

OLYMPIQUE Lyon's Kim Kallstrom (left) contests ball possession against Real Madrid's Mahamadou Diarra.

LONDON—OLYMPIQUE LYON BEAT Real Madrid, 2-0, in their opening Champions League group match Wednesday—a year to the day after inflicting a 3-0 defeat on the 9-time European champions in last season's opener.

Brazilian Fred put Lyon ahead after 11 minutes and Portuguese Tiago made it 2-0 in the 31st to seal the opening Group E victory for the French champions.

The game produced two milestones as far as Real was concerned.

New coach Fabio Capello became only the second man after Mircea Lucescu to coach four clubs in the competition—AC Milan, AS Roma, Juventus and now Real.

Real, meanwhile, recorded its 100th defeat in European competition—the first club to reach that unwanted milestone, although it pales into insignificance against its successes over the last 50 years including a record nine European Cups.

While Real was losing, there were victories for other former European champions.

Steaua Bucharest, triumphant 20 years ago, marked their return to the competition after a decade's absence in style, beating Dynamo Kiev, 4-1, in the other Group E match in Ukraine.

Manchester United won a pulsating all-British tie against Celtic with substitute Ole Gunnar Solskjaer securing a 3-2 win at Old Trafford in Group F with a goal early in the second half.

United, European champions in 1968 and 1999, and Celtic, Britain's first champions in 1967, both led in the game.

Dutchman Jan Vennegoor of Hesselink fired Celtic ahead in the 21st minute before two goals from Louis Saha—one from the penalty spot—put United in front.

Celtic equalized through Japan midfielder Shunsuke Nakamura just before the break while substitute Ole Gunnar Solskjaer scored what proved to be the winner for United just after it.

Debutants FC Copenhagen drew 0-0 with Benfica in their first match in the competition proper in the same group.

Arsenal, last season's runners-up, won 2-1 at Hamburg, who had goalkeeper Sascha Kirschstein sent off as he conceded a 10th minute penalty.

Brazilian midfielder Gilberto Silva scored to set the north London side on their way to a victory.

In the other Group G match, Porto, European champions in 2004, drew, 0-0, at home to CSKA Moscow.

AC Milan, European champions six times, beat AEK, 3-0, in Group H. *Reuters*

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Guidicelli rules 7th Shell kart leg

GUIDICELLI

CEBU CITY—KARTING SENSATION Matteo Guidicelli of Alessandra Racing banked on his mastery of the track to bounce back from a disappointing incident on the first heat and win the huge hometown crowd's heart by ruling the seventh and penultimate leg of the 2006 Shell Superkarting Series last weekend at the challenging Kart Zone in Mabolo here.

Guidicelli was bogged by problems in the qualifying and the first heat. Adjusting with the brand new chassis, he logged the third best time of 26.502 seconds in the qualifying time trials of this event sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP).

And in the first heat, he was hit by two backmarkers despite repetitive blue flag signals and got pulled down with a fourth place finish.

However, he ruled the second heat of the premier Formula 125 and the 28-lap final race which he wrapped up in 12 minutes 15.034 seconds.

With the feat, Guidicelli regained the overall lead from Marlon Stockinger of Birel who got into a series of misfortunes as he spun out of control on the second heat in the final race where he landed 13th.

Cebu Racing Group driver lawyer Jess Garcia bagged the runner-up finish in the Formula 125 while Mark Bumgarner of M&M Racing and Maico Angeles of Alessandra Racing checked in third and fourth, respectively, in the event sponsored by Shell Helix, San Mig Coffee, Denso Iridium Power, Honda Phils., Eastway Company, Aeromed Ambulance Transport and official tyres Yokohama Kart Tires.

Airline games take off

GEN. SANTOS CITY—THE PHILIPpine Airlines Intersports, the country's largest corporate sports event, kicks off its 29th edition here today with nine teams participating in the three-day tournament.

Top local officials, led by Gen. Santos City Mayor Pedro Acharon Jr., Sarangani Gov. Miguel Rene Dominguez and South Cotabato Gov. Daisy Avance Fuentes, will lead the opening of the multisport games at the Lagao Gymnasium at 2 p.m.

Over 500 athletes, all business executives and professionals from various PAL points, will take part in the tournament modeled after the Palarong Pambansa.

For just the second time in the event's history, an overseas team will participate, spicing up what has long been a Visayas-vs-Mindanao rivalry.

Returning this year is the old cast of local athletic clubs sporting monikers as colorful as their hometowns: Los Jefes de Cebu, Bomberos de Davao, Tantawan Kutawato (Cotabato), Los Amigos de Iloilo, Caballeros de Zamboanga, Manila Executives, Negros Executives and host Los Hermanos de Heneral Santos.

They will be joined by a club from Sydney, Australia—the Wallabies of Down Under—which is making its second appearance in the tournament. The Cagayan de Oro Executives are taking a leave from the PAL Intersports this year.

They will participate in badminton, basketball, billiards, bowling, tennis and golf.

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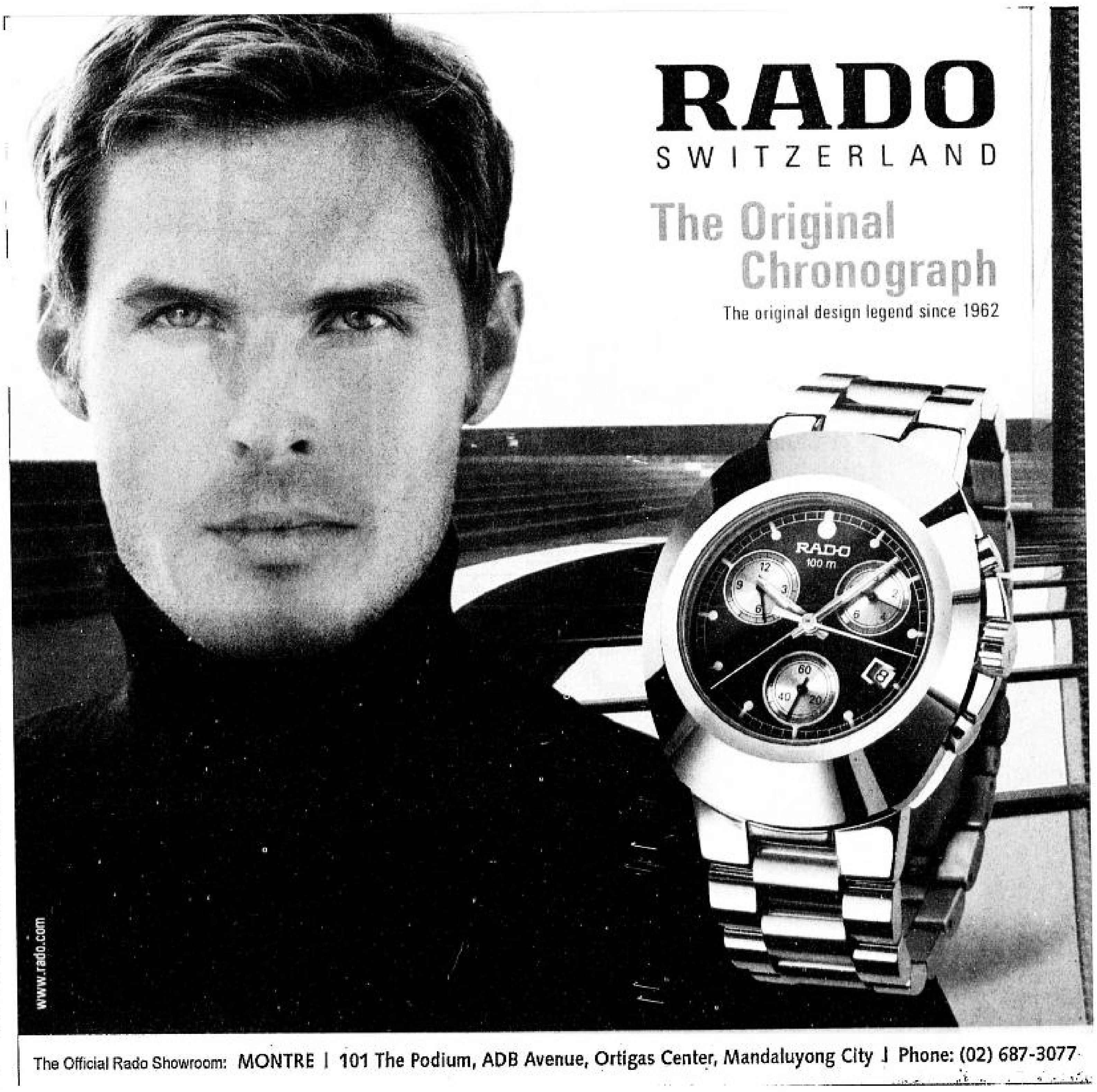
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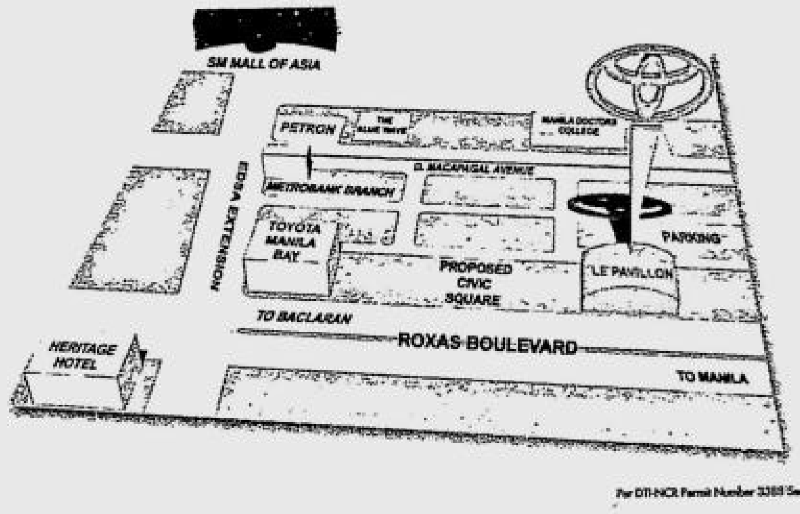
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RP posts lower public sector debt

OPSD in the first quarter dropped to below ₱5-trillion mark, says DOF

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SECTOR DEBT (OPSD) continued to drop, falling below the P5-trillion mark as of the first quarter of the year.

Finance officials attributed this development to the improving fiscal condition of the national government.

Data from the Department of Finance showed that OPSD as of end-March this year hit P4.954 trillion. The figure was equivalent to 89 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

The latest OPSD figure registered a decline from the P5.034 trillion and the P5.5 trillion recorded in the the fourth and third quarters of 2005, respectively.

OPSD is the combined accumulated liabilities of the national government, state-owned firms, and local government units. But it nets out the amount of intra-government borrowings, or debts of one government entity to another.

Debt of the non-financial public sector—which includes liabilities of the national government, government-owned and -controlled corporations,

RP POSTS/ B3

IN THIS ISSUE
▩ **Of Camry,** FM cronies, FG cousin /B2
▩ **Tsuneishi** earmarks $100M for expansion of Cebu facility /B4
▩ **Cement** firms cry foul /B12

Jan-Aug net foreign buying up 45% to ₱26B

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

NET FOREIGN BUYING AT THE PHILIPPINE stock market grew 45 percent to P26 billion from January to August from P18 billion in the same period last year.

Philippine Stock Exchange officials said slowing inflation, a pause in the interest rate hikes in the United States, and measures undertaken by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas had kept the lid on key borrowing costs.

The resulting lower interest rates are welcomed by companies that may turn to borrowing to fund their expansion programs.

Net foreign buying is the difference between total foreign buying and total foreign selling.

However, the PSE yesterday said that the market for the month of August posted a net foreign selling position of P1.3 billion from a net foreign buying of P2.26 billion in July.

This meant that foreign investors sold more shares than they bought during the period, the PSE said in a statement.

The PSE said that the net foreign selling in August ended 14 straight months of net foreign buying at the stock market since June 2005.

PSE president Francis Lim said that the trend reversal last month was due to the SM Group's decision to buy P1.9 billion worth of Banco de Oro shares from a foreign investor on Aug. 14.

The selling investor was not named.

"The picture last month, as far as foreign transaction is concerned, changed only because of what appears like consolidation of ownership at Banco de Oro," Lim explained.

"The net selling value for August was not an offshoot of numerous selling orders from foreign investors, but rather the result of a decision of [SM group mall tycoon Henry] Sy to buy a big chunk of BDO shares, valued at P1.9 billion, from a foreign party."

Lim added that the net selling last month did not accurately reflect the sentiment of foreign investors.

Lim said that had it not been for the BDO transaction, the stock market in August would have recorded a net foreign buying

JAN-AUG/ B2

INDICATORS

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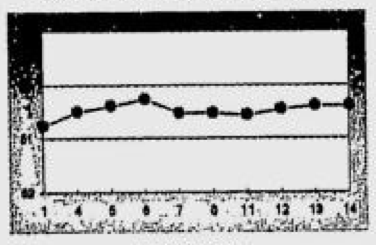

SEPTEMBER

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

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As of 5 p.m., Sept. 14, 2006

¥ 117.58 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 14, 2006

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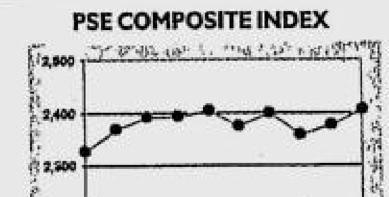
STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares close 1.14% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY closed up 1.14 percent, pushing the main index to near four-month highs as investors cheered further gains on Wall Street, dealers said.

News that the country's tax collection targets were exceeded last month, along with encouraging results of the government's latest debt

STOCKS/ B2

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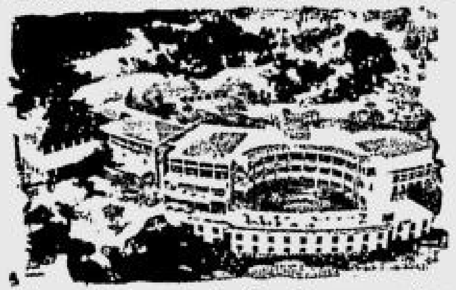

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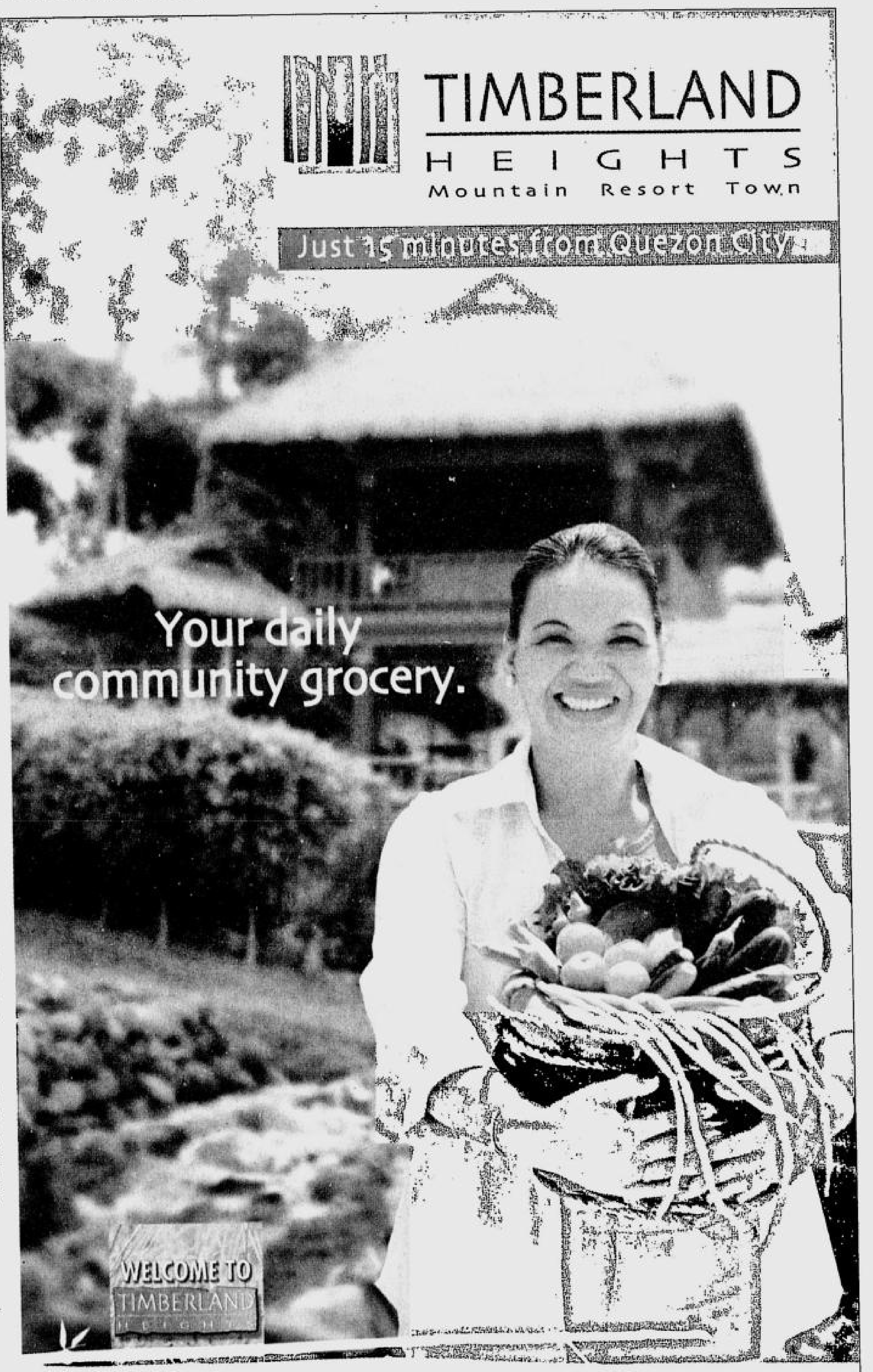
The Ranch HLURB LTS # 14578
Banyan Ridge HLURB LTS # 11957
Mandala Residential Farm Estates HLURB LTS # 10476



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INVEST ON SOLID GROUND

McDonald's sales seen rising to ₱10B by yearend

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

GOLDEN ARCHES DEVELOPMENT Corp., the Philippine franchise holder of global fast food giant McDonald's, sees sales growing by 10 percent to P10 billion this year with the opening of more outlets.

GADC chair George Yang said in yesterday's stockholder's meeting of Alliance Global Group Inc. that McDonald's plans to open 24 new stores this year.

It already opened 10 stores in the first half with a budget of roughly P25 million a store.

Today, GADC runs 249 McDonald's branches nationwide.

AGGI owns 49 percent of McDonald's. GADC owns the rest.

AGGI recorded a net income of P3.3 billion in 2005, a huge leap from P332 million it earned in 2004, due to its entry in the quick service restaurant business through McDonald's.

Consolidated revenues in 2005 for AGGI rose 119 percent to P7.9 billion with food and beverage revenues accounting for P7.6 billion.

On the other hand, McDonald's local rival Jollibee Foods Corp. posted consolidated revenues of P29 billion in 2005 from P26.2 billion in 2004.

Jollibee's revenues measure sales by company-owned stores and the commissary, royalty and franchise fees, and rental and service revenues.

AGGI plans to expand its food and beverage line under McDonald's, which it acquired last year.

Tracing its roots to glass manufacturing, AGGI branched out to food and beverage, setting up its subsidiary Alliance Growers Holdings Inc. to consolidate its interests and assets in food and beverage.

The company later acquired McKester Pik-Nik International Ltd., gaining control of two popular food brands: The McKester's line of juices, spreads and food preserves and Pik-Nik shoestring potato snacks.

It also distributes imported brands such as Campbell's soups and Ernest & Julio Gallo wines.

PRU LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF U.K.
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SYNOPSES OF THE ANNUAL STATEMENTS as of December 31, 2004 and 2003

ADMITTED ASSETS	2004	2003
Bonds	P 2,571,980,910.02	P 1,818,639,400.08
Stocks	880,957.75	1,298,065.00
Real Estate	8,528,570.00	8,895,663.00
Mortgage Loans	5,474,433.00	6,279,528.00
Policy Loans	120,127,544.00	60,796,170.00
Other Loans	539,798.00	2,047,937.47
Security Fund	530,797.00	885,092.00
Other Investments	4,690,000.00	9,660,000.00
Investments in Variable Contract	878,846,463.00	502,639,228.35
Cash on Hand & in Banks	202,056,051.71	206,685,719.47
Electronic Data Processing Machine	30,037,888.00	41,553,295.95
Life Insurance Premiums & Annuity Consideration Due & Uncollected	33,233,671.00	45,041,388.00
Accident & Health Premium Due & Uncollected	728,884.00	665,643.00
Accrued Investment Income	65,442,392.00	47,291,642.92
TOTAL ADMITTED ASSETS	**P 3,923,098,359.48**	**P 2,752,378,793.24**
LIABILITIES		
Aggregate Reserve for Life Policies & Contracts	P 2,839,519,928.00	P 1,927,740,898.00
Aggregate Reserve for Accident & Health Policies	8,616,633.00	8,043,810.00
Policy & Contract Claims	29,481,962.00	30,226,938.00
Policyholders' Dividend Accumulations	139,809,264.00	76,416,029.00
Policyholders' Dividend & Experience Refunds Due & Unpaid	1,980,008.00	1,068,376.00
Policyholders' Dividend & Experience Refunds Payable in following Calendar Year	83,423,858.00	54,281,172.00
Premiums & Annuity Considerations Received in Advance	21,579,669.00	60,527,235.00
Liability for Premium Deposit Funds	95,041,496.00	72,933,317.00
Amount Due to Accepting Companies	17,383,689.00	16,995,109.00
Commissions Payable	38,511,039.00	18,888,504.00
Accrued Expenses	101,869,564.00	96,810,540.00
Taxes Payable	40,916,357.25	10,143,886.00
Other Liabilities	42,635,867.00	18,064,357.17
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**P 3,460,769,332.25**	**P 2,392,139,969.17**
STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY		
Statutory Deposit	P 278,000,000.00	P 278,000,000.00
Special Surplus Fund		
Fluctuation Reserve - Stocks & Bonds	25,922,863.82	6,676,332.35
Fluctuation Reserve - Foreign Exchange	5,606,596.32	57,851,382.99
Contributed Surplus	1,121,385,717.00	1,121,385,717.00
Home Office Account	(968,586,149.91)	(1,103,674,608.27)
TOTAL STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	**462,329,027.23**	**360,238,824.07**
TOTAL LIABILITIES & STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	**P 3,923,098,359.48**	**P 2,752,378,793.24**

(These synopses, prepared from the 2004 and 2003 Annual Statements, approved by the Insurance Commissioner, are published pursuant to Section 225 of the Insurance Code)

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Of Camry, FM cronies, FG cousin

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE UNFORTUNATE STANDOFF BETWEEN the Senate and the PCGG was triggered not by lofty constitutional principles as is now being spinned in the press but by a grubby catfight over cars and perks.

One Marcos crony family, who has not been allocated a new car for a decade now by the sequestered Philcomsat Group, got incensed after receiving documented information that PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede took delivery of a brand-new Toyota Camry in the name of the sequestered company.

The car was the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back in the fight for control of a dying, but still asset-rich Philcomsat Group between the Malacañang nominees, who control 35 percent, and the Marcos crony families who still hold the majority of what once was the country's monopoly overseas telecom gateway.

Despite being in the minority, the Malacañang nominees had adroitly exploited the family feuds that, for some strange coincidence, had simultaneously roiled the Ilusorios, the Africas, the Ponce Enriles and the Pobladors, to maintain their grip on the previous envy of the telecom industry.

But the Marcos crony families—Juan Ponce Enrile objects to the description, which we use to mean "close allies"—was jolted out of their internecine warfare during the dying months of the Erap government when then Malacañang-appointee Benito "Bomboy" Araneta lent P390 million of company funds to his cash-strapped landlord cousin, Antonio Araneta.

The loan has never been repaid.

A cousin of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, Benito Araneta was saved by the skin of his teeth by Edsa II and found himself reappointed by the new Malacañang nominees as the independent director and chair of Philcomsat Holdings, the publicly listed subsidiary.

Despite the new moral tone of Edsa II, Philcomsat Holdings' cash reserve of P1.2 billion had dwindled, as of the last quarter, to around P600 million, an alarming dissipation considering that no less than Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr.'s brother, Free Press publisher Enrique Locsin, has been appointed by Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to backstop Bomboy Araneta.

The alleged protective First Gentleman's mantle enjoyed by Araneta—Araneta's floor in the Enzo Building is now called "The Other Office" after Mike Arroyo fled there from the family-built and now overexposed LTA Building—has also caused a falling-out between Philcomsat stockholder Honorio "BabyBoy" Poblador Jr. and the First Gentleman, despite their steadfast friendship built during their Ateneo days.

As things stand now, the Marcos cronies control the unlisted POTC/Philcomsat holding and management companies, while the Malacañang nominees reign over the publicly listed subsidiary, Philcomsat Holdings, where the cash pile is.

Even without the cash, the POTC/Philcomsat companies still own valuable real estate holdings, including the Montemar Beach Resort in Bataan and the 800-hectare military-protected satellite site in Teresa, Rizal, the latter large enough to swallow Camp Crame, Aguinaldo and Fort Bonifacio combined.

For still unclear reasons, Malacañang nominees have been opposed to a settlement, advanced by Poblador and supported by Ponce Enrile, to collapse the private holding and management companies and fold them both into the Philcomsat's publicly listed concern, just what the government did with another sequestered holding company that had long held sway over and stymied PLDT.

The fold-in formula would afford the Marcos cronies a tax shelter, while Malacañang would have a market-based privatization route should it eventually decide that government has no business being in business.

Closer to GMA's heart, the settlement would also allow Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr. to relocate the now anachronistic camps, privatize Aguinaldo and Crame, and raise billions for his cash-strapped military. Instead, the Malacañang nominees—the PCGG is strangely taking the heat for them when the commission has no operational control over these political appointees—seem more preoccupied as to what kind of transport P1.6 million can buy.

But, then again, it is hard to see the forest and even know the lay of the land when the eyes are blinded by the Camry headlights.

Heard through the grapevine

ACTRESS Snooky Serna hastily left a Legaspi Village condominium and broke a one-year lease contract after Meralco cut off her unit's electricity.

In addition to unpaid power and water bills and food bills from the building canteen, the actress also left behind personal effects in the 38.9-square-meter studio.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

Jan-Aug net ...

From page B1

worth P584 million.

According to the PSE, total foreign buying from January to August this year also rose 19.8 percent to P188 billion from P157 billion in the same period last year.

Total foreign selling likewise increased 16.5 percent to P162 billion in the first eight months from the P139 billion posted in the same period last year.

Total trades or value turnover was flat at P309.7 billion for the first eight months of the year from the P305 billion of the previous year.

In comparing both periods, this translated to P1.8 billion in total trades per day.

Stock prices, as tracked by the Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi), rose 10.3 percent to 2,312.2 points during the first eight months of the year from 2,096.04 at the end of 2005.

Total market capitalization of all listed firms as of Aug. 31—or the value of a company measured by the market price of its outstanding shares—went up 7.3 percent to P6.38 trillion from P5.95 trillion at the end of 2005.

During the same eight-month period, the prices of 168 issues went up, those of 54 others retreated, while that of 31 other issues remained the same compared to their levels at the end of 2005.

Shares close...

From page B1

swap offer also spurred buyers, they said.

The composite index rose 27.05 points to 2,406.48 after trading between 2,379.43 and 2,408.54. This was its best finish since May 17 when it settled at 2,463.57 just before global markets fell on concerns about the outlook for inflation and interest rates.

The broader all-shares index rose 12.68 points to 1,484.83. Gainers led losers 63 to 32, with 45 stocks unchanged.

Turnover was 3.1 billion shares worth P1.3 billion ($25.85 million).

Philippine Long Distance Telephone rose P30 to P2,050.

Bank of the Philippine Islands gained P1.50 to P55.50 and parent Ayala Corp. added P5 to P460.

San Miguel A-shares ended flat at P65, while its B-shares fell 50 centavos to P71. *AFP*

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RP posts lower public sector debt

From page B1

and local government units—reached P4.578 trillion.

This was better than the P4.675 trillion recorded as of end-2005.

Debt of the financial public sector—which includes liabilities of government financial institutions like the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Land Bank of the Philippines, Development Bank of the Philippines and Tidcorp—reached P1.081 trillion. This was higher than the P1.051 trillion of the previous quarter.

Intra-government borrowings was recorded at P704.8 billion.

The exclusion of intra-government borrowings from the computation of the OPSD was a reform in the presentation of fiscal data which the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had pushed.

The IMF said netting out intra-government borrowings, which simply bloat the public sector debt, was an international practice.

Contingent debt as of the first quarter of this year stood at P611.5 billion, representing a drop from the P627.5 billion posted in the fourth quarter last year.

Contingent debt is the amount of liabilities of government entities that carry a sovereign guarantee.

Efforts of the national government to improve its fiscal position led to the drop in OPSD.

The national government's declining budget deficit, due to improving revenue collection and tight spending, eased its need for borrowings.

The declining borrowing requirement, combined with the payment of maturing obligations, resulted in the dwindling debt level.

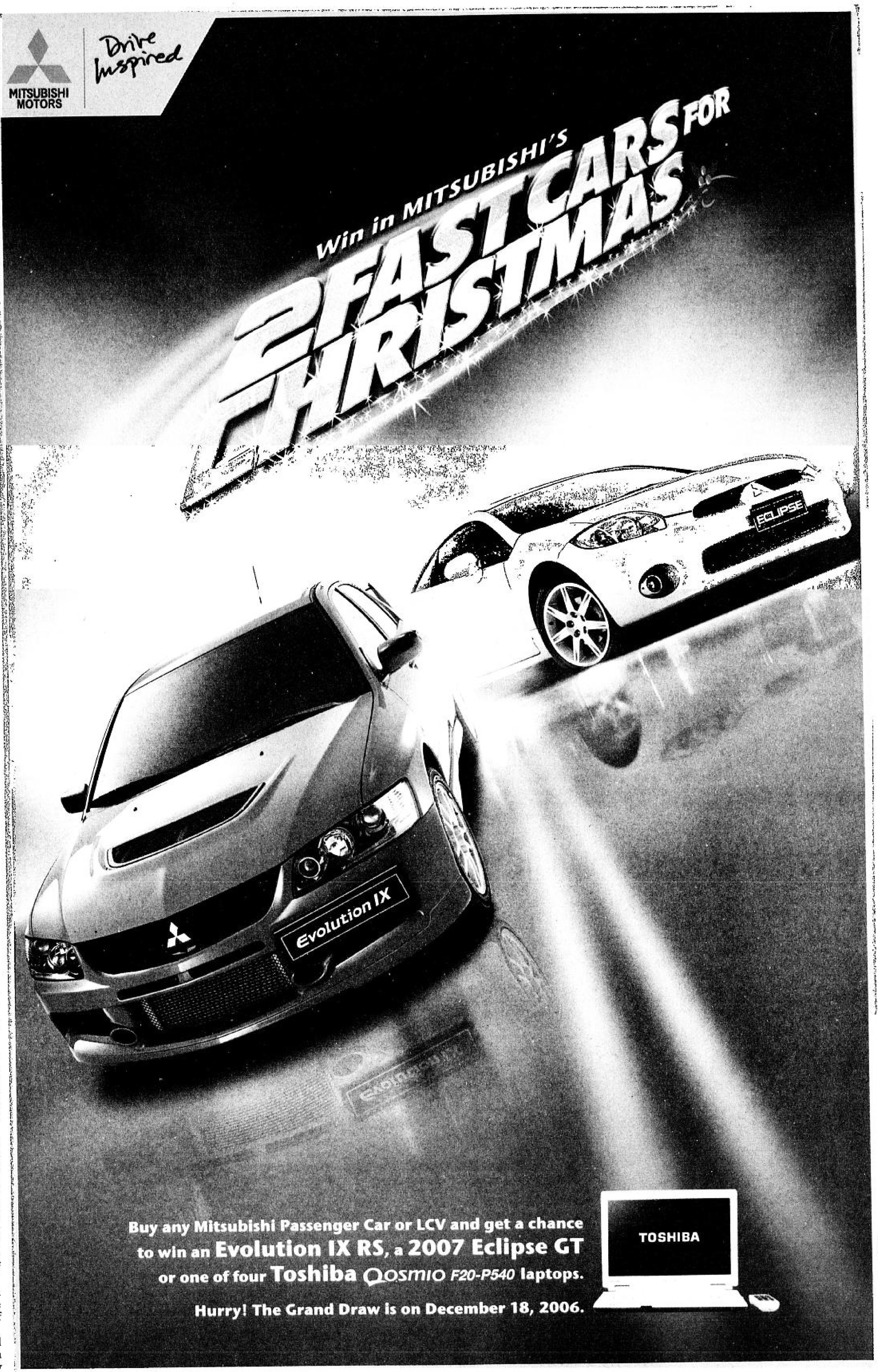
The trend of a declining OPSD, which started in the fourth quarter of last year, has kept the government on track of its target to reduce the debt figure to only P4.88 trillion, or 81.4 percent of the expected GDP, by the end of this year.

The target was a revision from the original target of P5.246 trillion.

The DOF revised the goal to a much bullish figure partly on account of the strengthening peso against the US dollar.

Appreciation of the peso makes the country's foreign-denominated debts cheaper in peso terms.

The Development Budget Coordination Committee (DBCC), the government body tasked with setting economic policies and targets, changed its forecast on the average peso-dollar exchange rate this year from the original range of 55 to 57, to the new range of 51 to 53.



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[illegible] Deadline of entries is on December 11, 2006. [illegible]

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Tsuneishi earmarks $100M for expansion of Cebu facility

Project to enable firm to build bigger and more ships

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

TSUNEISHI Heavy Industries will expand its work area in Balanban, Cebu by 86 hectares.

TSUNEISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES (CEBU) Inc., the joint venture between Tsuneishi Corp. of Japan and Aboitiz and Co., has committed to invest $100 million in the expansion of its shipyard in Balanban, Cebu.

THICI director Roberto E. Aboitiz told the INQUIRER that the additional investment would cover the construction of two more docks for boat building.

Phases four and five of the shipyard would add another 86 hectares to THICI's current work area of 40 hectares.

Aboitiz added that the expansion, the third in the company's 11-year history, would enable THICI to build bulk carriers as big as 170,000 deadweight tons from 58,000 dwt and almost double its production capacity from 14 ships a year to 24.

Ships of this size can travel long distances and are almost the same size as crude carriers. These are designed to carry goods such as grain, ore, aluminum and fertilizers.

THICI builds merchant ships that are marketed around the world from Japan, using the same shipbuilding technologies and standards of Tsuneishi.

Tsuneishi is one of the world's leading shipbuilders. It brings to the partnership technology, access to global market and capital.

Aboitiz estimated that THICI would hire an additional 4,000 skilled workers and that sales would hit $1 billion a year with the expansion.

Construction is expected to start early next year for completion in 2010.

"This major investment is being made because we earned the trust and confidence of private investors, the banking community and the people of Balamban, Cebu," Aboitiz said.

Aboitiz said the decision to invest was triggered by the upswing in the shipbuilding industry, attributed to the expected growth in the global movement of goods, particularly to and from China.

RP to swap $1B in old debt for $1.2B in new debt

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF THE TREASURY (BTr) SAID the government would swap about $1.2 billion worth of new sovereign dollar bonds for $1 billion worth of old short- to medium-term global securities under its debt consolidation program.

National Treasurer Omar Cruz said the amount was determined based on the volume of bids received and the price limits set by the Bureau of the Treasury.

The swap will stretch the average maturity of the country's debts and, therefore, allow the government to better manage its obligations.

"(The bond swap) is part of the government's broader program to manage its external liabilities. It will help further consolidate and rationalize the Republic's portfolio of outstanding foreign-currency liabilities," Cruz said in a statement.

Under the bond exchange program, the government offered to swap new bonds maturing in 2024 for existing bonds maturing in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2014 and 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2019.

It will also swap reopened bonds maturing in 2031 for old bonds that were supposed to mature in 2024 and 2025.

The BTr earlier said it had set the minimum spread for the new 2024 bonds at 187 basis points over comparable US swap rate. The minimum spread for the new 2031 bonds is set at 202 basis points over comparable US swap rate.

The actual coupon rates for the new global bonds will be determined on Sept. 25, the BTr said.

The BTr said the swap was expected to create huge liquidity for the new bonds and, therefore, boost the capital market. Cruz earlier said that investors who buy government securities by bulk often prefer purchasing bonds under similar tenors.

SSS chief keeps post in EPCIB

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS HAS allowed Equitable PCI Bank to keep Social Security System president Corazon dela Paz as its chair.

This followed the BSP's approval of the amendments to the bank's charter that deleted any reference to the chair and vice chair as officers of the bank and removed their authority to sign various bank instruments.

EPCIBank told the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday that the BSP also confirmed on Sept. 12 the election/reelection of the following directors: Winston Garcia (who is also Government Service Insurance System president) as vice chair, Teresita Sy as vice chair and Rene Buenaventura as director, president and chief executive officer.

The BSP's policy-making Monetary Board earlier approved in principle a resolution disqualifying Dela Paz as "officer" of EPCIB in view of a provision in the General Banking Law of 2000 that prohibits public officials from holding officer position in private banks. But before the Monetary Board could execute its order, EPCIB appealed its case and submitted additional documents for its reconsideration.

The BSP afterwards gave its imprimatur for the Securities and Exchange Commission to approve EPCIB's petition to amend its by-laws.

Dela Paz sits on the EPCIB board representing the SSS, the second biggest voting block in the bank with a 29-percent stake.

Analysts said it was a matter of time before the SM group, which recently made a tender offer to buy out other shareholders in EPCIB, would take over a controlling stake in the bank and eventually appoint its own chair.

The SM group bought out the Gos last year and has since then become the single biggest voting block in EPCIB with a 34-percent stake. However, it needs the vote of two-thirds of EPCIB shareholders implement a merger with BDO.

The group of mall tycoon Henry Sy has offered to buy out other shareholders in the country's third biggest lender at P92 per share or a sum of about P36.9 billion. It is also set to buy the 10.8 percent shares in EPCIBank held by bank subsidiary at the same price per share.

GMA 7 pursuing IPO plan in '07

TELEVISION GIANT GMA NETWORK INC. (GMA 7) sees flat growth in profit this year at roughly P2 billion due to lower advertising revenue, GMA 7 chair Felipe Gozon said following a TechnoNegosyo forum at the World Trade Center yesterday.

Gozon, however, said he was optimistic that earnings would be stronger in 2007 in time for the company's planned initial public offering possibly in the second half of that year given the expected contributions from QTV Channel 11 and its international operations.

GMA 7 said that in 2005, it hit its year-end net income target at P2 billion, 34 percent higher than its net profit of P1.5 billion in 2004.

The networks expects its revenues to hit P10 billion this year from P9.7 billion in 2005.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

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DR-1212LA Big Display
12 digits | 2COLOUR PRINT | 3.5 lines/sec | MU MD | LINE PRINT | %

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 14, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	4,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	38	38	37.5	37.5	261,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	54.5	55.5	54.5	55.5	654,600
China Banking Corp.	690	695	690	695	4,020
Citystate Savings Bank	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	420,000
Equitable Pci Bank Inc.	76.5	77	76.5	77	35,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	39.5	39.5	39.5	39.5	461,100
Philippine National Bank	33.5	34	33.5	34	1,500
Phil. Savings Bank	42.5	42.5	42.5	42.5	5,000
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	17.5	17.5	17	17	10,100
Security Bank Corp.	51.5	51.5	51	51	146,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	45	45	45	45	37,500
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Citiseconline.Com, Inc.	2.75	2.9	2.75	2.9	1,385,000
Filipino Fund Inc	4	4	4	4	1,000
First Metro Invest. Corp	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1580	1580	1580	1580	150
Pci Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	30,000
Ivantage Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.34	1.34	471,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	47.5	48	47.5	48	640,400
First Phil Hldgs Corp	46	47.5	46	47.5	1,482,100
Manila Electric Co. A	18.25	18.5	18.25	18.5	104,500
Manila Electric Co. B	29.5	30	29.5	30	351,900
Manila Water Co. Inc.	9	9.2	9	9.1	7,652,000
Petron Corp.	3.85	3.85	3.8	3.8	4,998,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	320,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.95	3	2.95	3	21,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.25	23.25	23	23	47,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	33.5	33.5	33.5	33.5	571,100
Rfm Corp.	0.84	0.84	0.84	0.84	20,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.65	3.65	387,000
San Miguel Corp. A	64.5	65	64.5	65	135,300
San Miguel Corp. B	71.5	71.5	70	71	190,900
Universal Robina Corp.	18	18.25	18	18	3,176,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.22	0.235	0.22	0.22	3,250,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	580,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.6	1,891,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.85	4.9	4.85	4.9	1,105,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat, Inc.	3.8	3.9	3.35	3.45	722,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	100,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.33	360,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	10,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.38	0.47	0.37	0.45	212,690,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	2,700,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	4,000,000
Ayala Corp.	457.5	462.5	455	460	71,620
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	6,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.027	3,200,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.94	1.94	1.94	1.94	44,000
Apc Group, Inc.	0.215	0.22	0.21	0.22	2,700,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	3,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.93	0.93	0.92	0.93	1,250,000
Atn Holdings Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	30,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.15	62,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	50,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.2	1.26	1.2	1.26	31,772,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	3.65	3.8	3.65	3.75	779,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	3	3.15	3	3.15	1,255,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	32,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.8	690,000
Medco Holdings	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.23	700,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	1	1.26	0.98	1.26	17,430,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,600,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.175	0.175	200,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.57	0.57	10,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.125	0.13	0.125	0.13	640,000
Sm Investments Corp.	227	229	227	229	162,960
Seafront Resources Corp.	1.1	1.16	1.1	1.1	351,000
Vivant Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	10,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	50,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	14	14	13.75	13.75	7,106,900
Belle Corp.	1.02	1.02	0.99	1.02	7,810,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.3	0.33	0.3	0.31	1,230,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.9	2.5	2.9	3,215,000
C & P Homes Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	10,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	640,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	8,900,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.89	0.89	0.85	0.85	170,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.048	0.0525	0.048	0.0525	1,500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.4	1.44	1.38	1.38	13,596,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	20,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.32	2.32	2.32	2.32	10,000
Interport Res. B	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	10,000,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	50,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.86	1.86	1.84	1.84	44,936,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.4	3.4	469,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	510,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.135	0.15	0.135	0.15	1,160,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13	104,200
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	5,800,000
Sm Prime Holdings Inc.	8	8.1	8	8	1,832,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.57	0.59	0.57	0.57	350,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	100,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	16	16.25	16	16.25	26,100
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	1.2	1.26	1.2	1.26	12,739,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1030	1035	1030	1035	50,650
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	4.25	4.5	4.2	4.45	16,171,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2040	2050	2040	2050	90,080
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.19	830,000
Imperial Res.	0.017	0.018	0.017	0.018	2,200,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.047	0.047	0.047	0.047	2,200,000
Ism Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.05	0.05	2,300,000
Philweb Corp.	0.027	0.028	0.027	0.027	89,500,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	100,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	15.75	16	15.75	16	128,500
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	5,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Acesite Phils Hotel Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	1,945,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.96	1.96	1.94	1.94	2,098,000
Manila Jockey Club	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	3,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	420,000
Philippine Racing Club	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.45	1,220,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	43,000
Ipeople Inc	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	5,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2	2.02	1.92	1.92	352,000
Paxys, Inc.	10.25	10.25	10	10.25	91,200
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	4.25	4.3	4.25	4.25	663,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	4.15	4.45	4.15	4.25	510,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0095	0.011	0.0095	0.011	619,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.1	733,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	1,000
Benguet Corp. B	20	20	20	20	10,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	14,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.22	0.215	0.22	3,250,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.235	0.24	0.235	0.235	1,050,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.019	0.017	0.018	290,300,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.019	0.021	0.019	0.021	188,800,000
Omico Corp.	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	1,090,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	3.3	3.45	3.3	3.45	5,694,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	3.25	3.45	3.25	3.45	8,005,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	20.5	21	20.5	21	35,700
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.42	0.44	0.42	0.43	760,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.59	0.61	0.59	0.61	1,100,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	1,040,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	281,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	50,300,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1	1	1	1	1,030,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1	1	1	1	168,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	9.2	9.6	9.2	9.2	101,000
PREFERRED					
Ayala Corp. Pref. B	104	104	104	104	1,000

CURRENCIES

September 14, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.787712	1.000000	50.4220
Japan	Yen	0.006695	0.008499	0.4285
United Kingdom	Pound	1.478771	1.877300	94.6572
Hongkong	Dollar	0.101235	0.128518	6.4801
Switzerland	Franc	0.629867	0.799616	40.3182
Canada	Dollar	0.703440	0.893017	45.0277
Singapore	Dollar	0.500388	0.635243	32.0302
Australia	Dollar	0.592844	0.752615	37.9484
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.089532	2.652661	133.7525
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.210039	0.266645	13.4448
Brunei	Dollar	0.498804	0.633232	31.9288
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000109	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.021096	0.026781	1.3504
UAE	Dirham	0.214472	0.272272	13.7285
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.269500	64.0107
Argentina	Peso	0.253691	0.322061	16.2390
Brazil	Real	0.362967	0.460787	23.2338
Denmark	Kroner	0.134074	0.170207	8.5822
India	Rupee	0.017094	0.021701	1.0942
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.214636	0.272480	13.7390
Mexico	New Peso	0.071734	0.091066	4.5917
New Zealand	Dollar	0.509252	0.646496	32.5976
Norway	Kroner	0.119545	0.151763	7.6522
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013029	0.016540	0.8340
South Africa	Rand	0.107171	0.136054	6.8601
Korea	Won	0.000822	0.001043	0.0526
Sweden	Kroner	0.108196	0.137355	6.9257
Syria	Pound	0.015174	0.019264	0.9713
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023931	0.030381	1.5319
Venezuela	Bolivar	0 000367	0 000466	0 0235

The beginning of a farmer's life

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

TODAY, THE FILIPINO FARMER FACES many difficulties. For many agriculture products, the tariffs are insufficient to protect them against illegal or unfairly subsidized imports. The necessary agricultural infrastructure, technology, and support services are not provided. The Congress is deliberating on P3.2 billion for MRT-3 in their congressional supplemental budget proposal to benefit urban consumers, but not a single peso for the Department of Agriculture.

It is hoped that these issues are addressed soon.

At birth

Infant mortality rates are high in Philippine agricultural communities. It is 36 deaths per one thousand compared to the averages of 10, 18 and 20 deaths respectively for Malaysia, Vietnam and Thailand. This is largely because childbirth is done in the farmer's home, and assistance comes from *hilots* (traditional birth attendants) or midwives. They often lack the support system and facilities.

In 1992, the United States Agency for International Development supported a project called Tango 1 (Technical Assistance to NGOs), which focused on family planning.

However, realizing there was the problem of high birth mortality because of *hilots* and *comadronas* assisting childbirth in often unsanitary home premises, Tango 2 was launched five years later.

Through the help of NGOs in 10 regions, 240 clinics were organized, with one midwife per clinic. This includes not only the necessary sanitary facilities and equipment, but also training on the latest childbirth techniques, and pre- and post-natal care. Two to three required seminars a year are conducted to ensure that the midwives are updated. In addition, there is the speedy access to a back-up physician.

To ensure proper management and quality control, the Well-Family Clinic Partnerships Foundation Inc. was founded. It provides the corporate mechanisms for NGOs and midwives to continue improving the system and expand the delivery of their services to more rural people. WPFI established a franchising system, where those who followed their system with the corresponding World Health Organization standards would carry the name "Well-Family Midwife Clinic (WFMC)."

Poised for take off

Today, there are 137 WFMCs existing in 10 regions, with the support of NGOs in each region. The collective 10-year experience of experimentation, trials, successes and failures are a valuable asset that WPFI, the WFMCs, and their selected NGOs can now use as they pursue an expansion plan to reach more rural communities. This plan has the full support of USAID's Dr. Aye Aye Thwin.

"You can use a spare room in your house to start a WFMC," says Carol Millan, said WPFI treasurer.

For a WPFI franchise, she says, one has to pay P500 a month for a five-year contract.

"But in return, you not only get a recognized system. More importantly, you save lives, help the mother and child with pre- and post-natal care, and give the infant a more promising beginning in life."

Dr. Warlito Vicente, WPFI president, and surgeon at the Community Health and Development Cooperative Hospital in Davao City, adds: "The model we have is financially viable and very replicable. We have 10 WFMCs in Davao City today. On their own, and with no assistance from any funding agencies, four of them have established additional clinics following our model."

The farming sector should not totally rely on the government for all of their needs. Here is an example of a private sector initiative.

For more information on this, call Carol Millan at 0917 866 9344, or Dr. Warlito Vicente at 0917 700 6647.

(The author is Agriwatch chair. Send inquiries to agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8522112.)

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Balanced Fund	1.192352	1.189529
Equity Fund	1.209690	1.218044

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

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Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	Current Week Sep. 12, 2006	Last Week Sep. 05, 2006
Bond Fund - Peso	1.49531	1.48602
Managed Fund - Peso	1.64051	1.63737
Growth Fund - Peso	1.29697	1.31267
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.2854	1.2846

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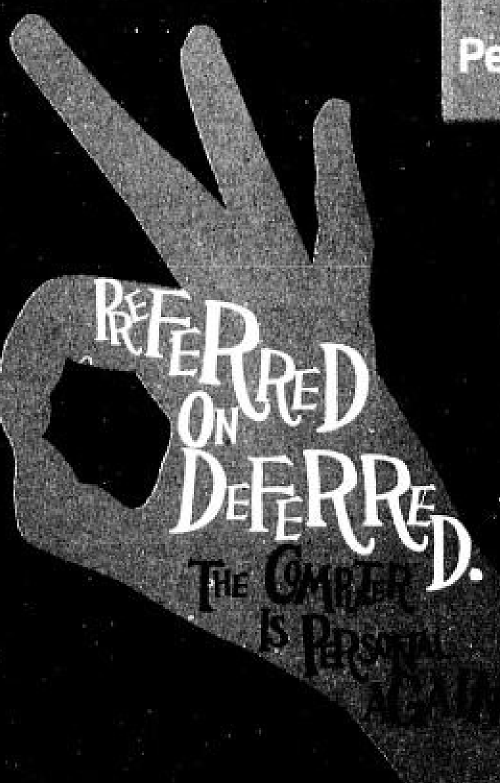
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PARTICIPATING CREDIT CARDS: BPI, Citibank, Equitable, AIG, Bankard, Metrobank and BDO

Per DTI-NCR Permit No.3422 Series of 2006

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

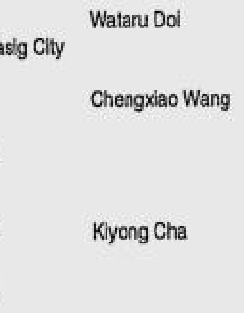
Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
SCHUURMANS AND VAN GINNEKEN B.V. U-37C, 37/F, Rufino Pacific Tower 6784 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Tark Bartlema	Commercial Manager
BORAL PLASTERBOARD PHILIPPINES, INC. 8 Mercury Ave., Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Chai Sungkboon	Country Manager
TEMIC AUTOMOTIVE (PHILS.), INC. Bagsakan Rd., FTI Estate, Taguig City	Reinhard Martin Rieger	Director/CBE Manufacturing Manager
CARRIER INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 39/F Union Bank Plaza, Meralco cor. Onyx Sts., Ortigas Ctr., Pasay City	Soojin Lee	Senior Administrator
RMH TELESERVICES ASIA PACIFIC INC. 6/F, ELJ Communications Center, Mother Ignacia St., ABS-CBN Cpd., Diliman Quezon City	Joy Ann Marie Sese	Operations Manager
PHILIPPINE CULTURAL INFORMATION AND TOURISM, INC. 1007 Cityland Shaw Tower, St. Francis St. Mandaluyong City	Eun Sang Cho	Marketing Director
I.T. & L CORP. Unit P-2, Hanston Bldg., Emerald Ave. Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City	Jeong Hwan Kim	Production Manager
MERLIN INFORMATION SYSTEMS PHILIPPINES INC. 4/F, Ortigas Bldg., Ortigas Ave. Ortigas Ctr. Pasig City	Yaoqiang Ma	1st Level Technical Multi Lingual Help Desk Agent
MERLIN INFORMATION SYSTEMS PHILIPPINES INC. 4/F, Ortigas Bldg., Ortigas Ave, Ortigas Ctr. Pasig City	Yapeng Guo	1st Level Technical Multi Lingual Help Desk Agent
REFAST-888 TRADERS, INC. RM. 208 STP Bldg., #381 Marquina cor. Dasmariñas St., Binondo, Manila	Shibao Wang	Operation Manager
YI DA XIN TRADING CORP. Rm. 505, 957 G. Masangkay St. Binondo, Manila	Bingyuan Lin	Operation Manager
YI DA XIN TRADING CORP. Rm. 505, 957 G. Masangkay St. Binondo, Manila	Mingying Shi	Technical Consultant
HANRIVER INT'L. CORPORATION # 1 Escolastica St., cor. Roxas Blvd. Pasay City	Gum Bae Park	General Manager
SUZUKI PHILIPPINES INC. Danny Floro St., Bagong Ilog, Pasig City	Wataru Doi	General Manager
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES, INC. 53/F, PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave. Makati City	Chengxiao Wang	Account Manager
KAWIT PRIMEWORK MOTOR CORPORATION 670 Quirino Ave., San Dionisio, Parañaque City	Kiyong Cha	General Manager
ULTIMATE HAPPY DREAM PHILS. CORP. 1289 Zobel Roxas Ave., South Superhighway Brgy. 758, Zone 082, Sta. Ana, Manila	Quanhua Huang	Director
ULTIMATE HAPPY DREAM PHILS. CORP. 1289 Zobel Roxas Ave., South Superhighway Brgy. 758, Zone 082, Sta. Ana, Manila	Myeong Ho Park	General Manager
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES INC. 53/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Hui He	Project Finance Manager
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES INC. 53/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Xun Xiao	Radio Network Planning Manager
HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES INC. 53/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Bo Shen	Account Director

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI–Sept. 15, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



Please be informed that **MICHELLE M. MARRON** is no longer connected with ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC. (the Corporation) as of September 5, 2006. As such and after such date, she is no longer authorized to receive payments for and on behalf of the Corporation. The Corporation shall not honor any payments to her after September 5, 2006, and the corresponding obligations shall remain outstanding. We also request that we be informed of any payments made to her at the soonest possible time to avoid any inconvenience.

Please be guided accordingly. Thank you.

Management
ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPELS, INC.

(PDI – September 15, 2006)

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephones (632) 5513438 • 5513454 • Facsimile (632) 5513436
E-mail: info@peza.gov.ph • Website: www.peza.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

The *PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (PEZA)*, through the *corporate operating budget for calendar year 2006* intends to apply the sum of *Sixty One Million Eight Hundred Thirteen Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Three and 96/100 Pesos (P61,813,423.96)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *Design, Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 25/30 MVA Transformer, MV Switchgear, 69 KV Gas Circuit Breaker and Disconnect Switch, 69 KV Metering, SCADA System and Other Vital Substation Accessories in Baguio City Economic Zone.* Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

PEZA now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for *Design, Supply, Delivery, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 25/30 MVA Transformer, MV Switchgear, 69 KV Gas Circuit Breaker and Disconnect Switch, 69 KV Metering, SCADA System and Other Vital Substation Accessories in Baguio City Economic Zone.* Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibity requirements stated in the Eligbility Documents.

Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs and certified true copy of its G-EPS registration certificate on or before *5:00 p.m. 27 September 2006* at *3rd Floor, PEZA Bldg., Roxas Blvd. corner San Luis St., Pasay City* and secure the Eligbility Documents therefrom upon payment of *Ten Thousand Pesos (P 10,000.00)*. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligbility Documents shall be on *03 October 2006 at 11:00 a.m.* at the *3rd Floor, PEZA Bldg. Roxas Blvd. cor. San Luis St., Pasay City* and the opening of Eligbility Documents shall be at *2:00 p.m. of the said date* and *address.* Only those Bidders passing the eligbility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from *PEZA* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 a.m.* to *5:00 p.m.* on *10 October 2006.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of *Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00).* The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before *5:00 p.m. 10 October 2006.*

PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on *11 October 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* at the following address *6th Floor, PEZA Bldg., Roxas Blvd. cor. San Luis St., Pasay City.*

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before *11:00 a.m. of 23 October 2006.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of *Cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit at least one percent (1%) of ABC* and *GSIS Surety Bond at least two and a half percent (2.5%) of ABC.* Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on *23 October 2006 at 2:00 p.m.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below at *2:00 p.m. on 23 October 2006.*

Completion of the Works is required by within 214 Calendar Days from receipt of Notice to Proceed.

PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City
Tel. No.(02) 551-3443
Fax (02) 551-9587
website: www.peza.gov.ph

BAC Chairman

(PDI–Sept. 15 & 21, 2006)

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street, Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephones (632) 5513438 • 5513454 • Facsimile (632) 5513436
E-mail: info@peza.gov.ph • Website: www.peza.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid for the Janitorial, Messengerial & Other Manpower Requirements of PEZA

1. The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA), through its Corporate Operating Budget for CY 2006 intends to apply the sum of PhP 6,891,613.64 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Janitorial, Messengerial and Other Manpower Requirements of PEZA for a period of one (1) year. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The PEZA now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Janitorial, Messengerial and Other Manpower Requirements of PEZA. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a single similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the ABC and at least five (5) years experience in the general services industry. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the PEZA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours, Mondays to Fridays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from 15 - 29 September 2006, Mondays to Fridays, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of PhP5,000.00 and submission of a certified copy of their G-EPS Certificate of Registration. The method of payment will be cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The PEZA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 06 October 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor, Social Hall, PEZA Building, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 11:00 a.m. of 20 October 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of GSIS Surety Bond in the amount of not less than 2.5% of the ABC or in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount of not less than *1% of the ABC.* Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on 20 October 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the 6th Floor Social Hall, PEZA Bldg., Roxas Blvd. corner San Luis St., Pasay City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. In case any of the above dates is declared a special non-working holiday, it will automatically be reset on the next working day.
10. The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
3/F Almeda Building III, Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis St., Pasay City
Tel. No.891-6444 / Telefax No. 551-9587
e-mail: peza_bac_secretariat@yahoo.com
website: www.peza.gov.ph

THE CHAIRMAN
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI–Sept. 15 & 22, 2006)

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF CAPIZ
City of Roxas, Province of Capiz
(036) 6210-036 Local 254
Fax No.: (036) 6210-036 Local 158
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

SUPPLIES & INSTALLATION OF CAPIZ GYM AIRCONDITIONING PROJECT

Villareal Stadium, Roxas City

1. The Provincial Government of Capiz thru its BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE intends to apply the sum of (Please see schedule under Item No. 8) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract listed below. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.
2. In order to qualify for participation in the public bidding, bidders should conform to all eligibility requirements as prescribed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Republic Act 9184
3. The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility forms with the attached specification of the said project at Provincial General Services Office, Provincial Capitol, Roxas City upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of prescribed non-refundable fee in the amount listed below. The method of payment will be cash. The bidding documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidders or his authorized representative. Bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the same address
4. Bidders shall drop their duly accomplished technical and financial proposals in two separate envelopes in the bid boxes before the deadline of submission of bids, if they have not earlier pre-qualified.
5. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form of cash and must be delivered to the PGSO on or before the bid closing date.
6. BAC Committee assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.
7. BAC Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure or not to award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.
8. ITEMS FOR BID

Schedule	Date/Time & Place of Bidding	Item Description	ABC (In pesos)	Bid Docs Price
I	October 06, 2006 10:00 AM Bidding Rm Capitol Bldg. Roxas City	Supply & delivery, professional services, installation, Maintenance Services of 10 units unitary self contained direct expansion wall mounted Air-conditioning equipment w/ total capacity of 300tons	15,000,000.00	15,000.00
		Supply & delivery, professional services, installation, maintenance Services of 4 units non-recirculating direct drive 48" Air Curtains		
		Supply & delivery, professional services, installation, maintenance Services of 16 units non-recirculating direct drive 36" air Curtains		
		Supply & delivery, professional services, installation, maintenance services of structural mounting materials		
		Supply & delivery, professional services, installation, maintenance services of mechanical-piping materials		
		Supply & delivery, professional services, installation, maintenance services of mechanical-ducting materials		
		Provision of Professional Services, Installation & Maintenance Service of the Electrical Component		
II	October 13 Bidding Rm. Capitol Bldg., Roxas City	Supply & delivery of Electrical Materials for the A/C	5,000,000.00	5,000.00

BAC Activities	Schedule
Submission of Letters of Intent	September 18-22, 2006
Issuance of Bid documents	September 25-29, 2006
Pre-Bid Conference	October 04, 2006

(Sgd.) **DANTE B. BERMEJO**
Chairman
BAC Committee

(PDI - Sept. 8 & 15, 2006)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project/ Brief Description	One (1) lot supply and installation of ten (10) units Grinder Sewage Ejector Pumps per BSP Scope of Work and Specifications
Approved Budget for the Contract	P3,950,000.00
Delivery Period	Within six (6) weeks after receipt of Purchase Order

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	08 September - 28 September 2006, not later than 1:30 PM
2. Pre-bidding Conference	29 September 2006; 10:00 AM, Room MR2A
3. Opening of Bids	17 October 2006; 2:00 PM, Room MR2A
4. Bid Evaluation	) These shall be in accordance with the prescribed
5. Post-qualification	) periods allowed in the Implementing Rules &
6. Notice of Award	) Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated) 10 January 2003

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,975.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 15, 2006)

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS

NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

Notice is hereby given that **CARMEN COPPER CORPORATION** with office address at **7th Floor, Quad Alpha Centrum, 125 Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong City** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New Producer of Copper Concentrate, Gold, Silver and other metals** on a **Non-Pioneer** Status with capacity of **15,204,000 DMT per year** with project/plant site located at **Toledo City, Cebu**.

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI--September 15, 2006)

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Tel# 889-7956

ERRATUM

In the **NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S** of the **DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE-NCR)** published last **Sept.12, 2006**, the position of **Kazuo Ito** of **Manpower Outsourcing Services Inc.** should read **Support Engineer-Japanese** and not as published.

Our apologies.

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

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899-4425, 897-2535
897-8425 (Telefax)

CUBAO
912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)

MAKATI
892-5578, 811-4361
811-4370

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Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
Kagawaran ng Tanggulang Pambansa
Department of National Defense

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

(DND-Proper Procurement of Goods)

I. The Department of National Defense, through DND-Proper Bid and Awards Committee, invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

Re-bidding for Various Supplies/Materials:

Name of Project	Description	Approved Budget for Contract (ABC)
A. Office Supplies	Assorted Office Supplies for OSND	PhP 891,394.75
B. Computer Supplies	Assorted Computer Supplies for OSND	523,786.40
C. Other Supplies	Loyalty Ring for OSND Personnel	385,200.00
D. ICT Spare Parts	Assorted ICT Spare Parts for OSND	1,491,098.50
E. Janitorial Supplies	Assorted Janitorial Supplies for OSND	515,214.05
F. Vehicle Spare Parts	Assorted Vehicle Spare Parts for OSND	2,307,875.70
G. Subscription of Periodicals	Assorted Foreign Magazines and Local Newspapers	1,177,000.00
	TOTAL	Php 7,291,569.40

II. The schedule of activities are as follows:

ACTIVITIES	VENUE	DATE	TIME
Issuance of Bid Documents	Procurement Branch, OAS Bldg., DND	15 September 2006 to 12 October 2006	9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Pre-Bid Conference	OASA Old Conference Room, Basement, DND Bldg	02 October 2006	9:30 AM
Deadline for Submission / Opening of Bids	OASA Old Conference Room, Basement, DND Bldg	13 October 2006	9:30 AM
Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR-A) of R.A. 9184 dated 10 January 2003		
Post-Qualification			
Issuance of Notice of Award			

III. Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount as indicated below to the DND-Proper BAC Secretariat, Procurement Branch, Office of Administrative Services, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Tel. No. 911-8118:

PROJECT	COST OF BIDDING DOCUMENTS
A. Office Supplies	Php 900.00
B. Computer Supplies	500.00
C. Other Supplies	400.00
D. ICT Spare Parts	1,500.00
E. Janitorial Supplies	500.00
F. Vehicle Spare Parts	2,300.00
G. Subscription of Periodicals	1,200.00

Bidders who have secured the bidding documents in the previous bidding in any of the above projects may no longer secure new bidding documents but they are encouraged to get updates from the DND-Proper BAC Secretariat.

IV. The eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part-A (IRR-A).

V. To facilitate eligibility checking, manufacturers and/or suppliers who wish to participate in the public bidding may apply for registration with the DND-Proper BAC Secretariat at least fifteen (15) days prior to the scheduled submission and opening of bids for the procurement projects they wish to participate.

VI. The OSND assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

VII. The OSND reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality and award the Contract to the bidder whose proposal is the most advantageous to the government as evaluated by the DND-Proper Bids and Awards Committee (DND-Proper BAC).

VII. The invitation is also posted in the DBM Procurement Service website at www.procurementservice.org. and the DND website, in accordance with the IRR-A or R.A. 9184. Further, it shall also be posted at conspicuous places in the premises of the Department of National Defense (DND).

(Sgd.) ASSISTANT SECRETARY RUBEN F CIRON
Chairman, DND-Proper BAC

(PDI – September 15 & 22, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that PROVISIONAL RECEIPTS (PR's) issued to agents with the following numbers are hereby declared null and void effective August 1, 2006.

681-690B; 691-700B; 831-840B; 2181-2190B; 2751-2760; 4111-4120B; 4521-4530; 7411-7420B; 8061-8070B; 8531-8540B; 10241-10250B; 10421-10430B; 10441-10450B; 10551-10560B; 10921-10930B; 13181-13190B; 14421-14430B; 15221-15230B; 16641-16650B; 17161-17170B; 17321-17330B; 19951-19960B; 19961-19970B; 20191-20200B; 20331-20340B; 20981-20990B; 21471-21480B; 73071-73080B; 73571-73580B; 74861-74870B; 77901-77910B; 78311-78320B; 81651-81660B; 82141-82150B; 83480-83490B; 0201-0210DAG; 1041-1050SGO; 0262SGO; 73071-73080B; 74861-74870B; 776901-77910B; 78311-78320B; 81651-81660B; 82141-82150B; 831-830B; 14421-14430B; 15221-15230B; 17321-17330B; 20981-20990B

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(PDI--September 15, 2006)

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
No. 2006-018-g

RE-BIDDING FOR THE LEASE OF OFFICE SPACES INTENDED FOR PHILHEALTH NCR-CENTRAL BRANCH OFFICE, SERVICE OFFICE AND OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT FOR NCR GROUP

The **Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth)**, through the Corporate Operating Budget (COB) 2006, intends to apply the sum of **PhP 3,292,800.00** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Lease of Office Spaces Intended for PhilHealth NCR-Central Branch Office, Service Office and Office of the Vice-President for NCR Group. The amount of **P392.00** is the maximum bid price per square meter and per month of leased space. Bids in excess of the ABC and/or the maximum bid price per square meter and per month shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

PhilHealth now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the said procurement with the following specifications:

Location

The location of the building should be along Quezon Avenue and not more than 2.5 kilometers from EDSA, where it is easily accessible to all PhilHealth clientele, e.g. members, partners and health providers.

Space Requirement

The total space requirement (rentable) is approximately 2,100 square meters.

a. For the space requirement of PhilHealth Membership Assistance Center (PMAC), it must be at least 500 sq. m. situated in the Ground Floor.

b. It must have at least 30 parking slots for PhilHealth clients and 15 of which are free of charge and reserved for PhilHealth Officers and Employees.

PMAC Location and Space Requirement

The location for PMAC must be situated at the ground floor of the building to be accessible and convenient for the members.

Building (Equipment and Facilities)

The building must be structurally sound as checked by the proper authorities.

The building must have the following equipment/facilities:

- Sub-metering for electrical and water supply;
- Fire protection system such as water sprinklers, smoke detectors and fire alarm system;
- Fire exits;
- Floor ceiling must be at least 2.2 meters in clear height;
- Comfort Rooms in each floor at least one (1) for male and one (1) for females;
- Space for pylon post for vertical signage;
- Standby generator;
- Grounding system;
- Lightning Arrester; and
- Removable/Detachable acoustic ceiling

I.T. Requirements

The building must have the following:

- Available riser for data cables to pass through from one floor to another;
- Wire ways for network cables going from one room to another;
- An area of at least 2 sq. m. at the rooftop of the building, provided free of charge, for the installation of wireless communication equipment;
- The ceiling must have at least 0.30 meter clear space from the bottom of the beams for the installation of horizontal cabling of data cables;
- PhilHealth should be allowed to demolish portion of walls and floors for the installation of data cables and others; and
- Electrical room for the termination of data voice and electrical cables.

Basic Term

The basic term of the contract shall be for a period of two (2) months, subject for renewal.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino Citizens/Sole Proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws of regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino Citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to the technical and financial requirements. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who would be determined as such after the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the **Office of the Secretariat for the Bids and Awards Committees (OSBAC)** in the Central Office of PhilHealth, Room 1107 11th floor Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City, and inspect the Bidding Documents from **8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

A complete set of Bidding Documents should be purchased by interested Bidders from **September 8 to 22, 2006** at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of **PhP 10,000.00** cash. The prospective Bidder or his authorized representative shall receive the Bidding Documents personally.

PhilHealth will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on **September 25, 2006 at 10:30 a.m.** at the **OSBAC Conference Room** (Rm. 1106), PhilHealth Central Office, 11th floor Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd., Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the **OSBAC Conference Room** on or before **October 9, 2006, 10:30 a.m.** The official time shall be based on the wall clock located at the **OSBAC Conference Room.** Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on October 9, 2006, 10:30 a.m. at the **OSBAC Conference Room.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

CY 2004 to CY 2005 is the relevant period for contracts which will be required to be submitted by PhilHealth.

PhilHealth reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Office of the Secretariat for the Bids
and Awards Committees in the Central Office
MR. JOSEPH O. VERGARA
Rm. 1107, 11th Floor, Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Blvd.,
Brgy. Oranbo, Pasig City
Tel. (02) 637-9999 locals 1128, 1130 and 1830
Facsimile No.637-4735
e-mail: osbac@philhealth.gov.ph
www.philhealth.gov.ph

(Sgd.) **Atty. VALENTIN C. GUANIO**
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services

(PDI - Sept. 8 & 15, 2006)

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PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR
Municipality of Bayog

THE BAYOG BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID
JBIC Loan PH-P200

SECONDARY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT SCHOOL FACILITIES DEVELOPMENT

Construction of Two-Storey Six Classroom Building with Toilet

Bayog NHS, Kahayagan, Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) through the Department of Education has received an Official Development Assistance (ODA) Loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) towards the financing of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP) last December 28, 1999. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for *Two-Storey Six Classroom Building with Toilet.* Disbursement of the ODA Loan from JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of Loan Agreement PH-P200. No party other than the Department of Education shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claims to loan proceeds.
2. The Local Government Unit of *Bayog* now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders to enter into contract based on award for the *Construction of Two-Storey Six Classroom Building with Toilet*, which is envisioned to be completed within *One Hundred Twenty (120)* calendar days.
3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with the JBIC's Local Competitive Bidding procedures and is open to all Bidder's from eligible source countries as defined in the *"Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC Loans"*.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders upon submission of the Letter of Intent (LOI) and payment of a non-refundable fee of *PhP2,000.00* from the SEDIP-NPMO, DepED Division of Zamboanga del Sur, and the BAC Office of *Bayog*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative, which will be issued on Sept. 19, 2006.
5. The BAC-*Bayog* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on Sept. 27, 2006 at the *Municipal Hall of Bayog.*
6. Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the *Municipal Hall of Bayog* on or before Oct. 9, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in either of the following forms; cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft, irrevocable letter of credit or a bank guarantee in an amount specified in the Instruction to Bidders. Late Bids will not be accepted. The Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) will only be disclosed by BAC after the opening of bids in accordance with the Instruction to Bidders. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder or its authorized representatives who choose to attend the opening of bids.
7. JBIC requires that all bidders and contractors, as well as the LGU and DepED-SEDIP, shall observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JBIC;

   a.) will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt of fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;

   b.) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a stated period of time if it, at any time determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for, or in executing another contract financed in part from JBIC ODA Loans or other Japanese ODA.
8. The BAC of *Bayog* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **PABLITO A. MATIAS**
BAC Chairman

(PDI--Sept. 8 & 15, 2006)

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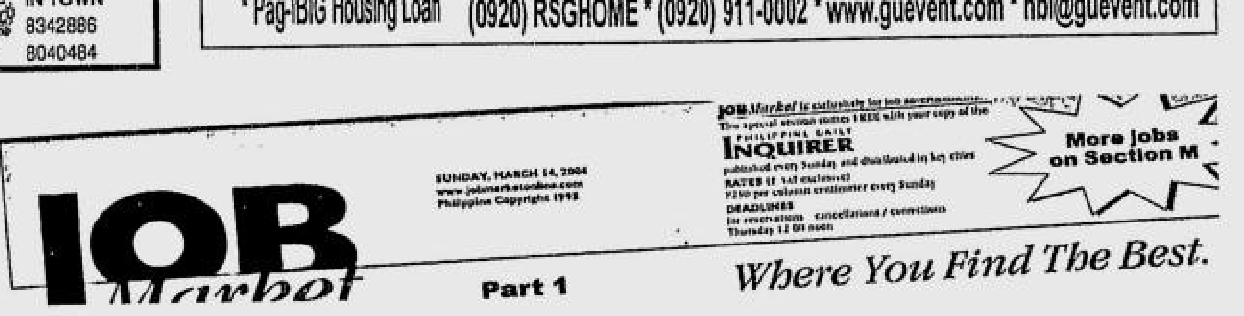

"In Christ all shall be made alive..."
1 Corinthians 15:22

DOÑA VICTORIA TY TAN

12 June 1909 - 14 September 2006

Matriarch of
the family of the late **Don Norberto Ty**

Mother of

Peter Ty Siao Keng and **Juanita H. Ty**
George S.K. Ty and **Mary Vy Ty**
Josephine Ty Chua and **Gabriel C. Chua**

passed peacefully from this life,
surrounded by her children,
grandchildren and great grandchildren
at the age of 97.

Her remains lie in state at
Chapel 7-10, The Heritage Park,
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

We request the pious readers to offer
a prayer of thanksgiving
and for the eternal repose of her soul.

Interment and Mass Schedules will be
posted at the chapel.

The Board of Directors, Officers and Staff of

THE METROBANK GROUP OF COMPANIES

Mourn the demise of

DOÑA VICTORIA TY TAN

Mother of its Group Chairman, **DR. GEORGE S.K. TY**

She peacefully joined our Lord on September 14, 2006 at the age of 97.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 7-10, The Heritage Park,
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

We request the pious readers to offer a prayer of thanksgiving
and for the eternal repose of her soul.

*"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live,
even though he dies and whoever believes in Me will never die."*
John 11:25-26

The Board of Directors,
Officers and Staff of the

**MANILA MEDICAL SERVICES, INC.
(Manila Doctors Hospital)**

Mourn the demise of

DOÑA VICTORIA TY TAN

Honorary Chairman

*who peacefully joined our Lord
on September 14, 2006
at the age of 97.*

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 7-10, The Heritage Park,
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

We request the pious readers to offer a prayer of thanksgiving
and for the eternal repose of her soul.

*"All things work together for good to
them who love God..."*
Romans 8:28

The Board of Trustees,
Officers, Staff and Students
of the

MANILA DOCTORS COLLEGE, INC.

Mourn the demise of

DOÑA VICTORIA TY TAN

Honorary Chairman

*who peacefully joined our Lord
on September 14, 2006
at the age of 97.*

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 7-10, The Heritage Park,
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

We request the pious readers to offer a prayer of thanksgiving
and for the eternal repose of her soul.

*"Only goodness and love will pursue
me all the days of my life; I will dwell
in the house of the Lord for years to
come..."*
Psalm 23:6

The Board of Directors,
Officers and Staff of the

NATION REALTY, INC.

Mourn the demise of

DOÑA VICTORIA TY TAN

Chairman

*who peacefully joined our Lord
on September 14, 2006
at the age of 97.*

Her remains lie in state at Chapel 7-10, The Heritage Park,
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

We request the pious readers to offer a prayer of thanksgiving
and for the eternal repose of her soul.

*"For my yoke is easy and my burden
is light."*
Matthew 11:30

TransCo

Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Upgrade/Expansion of Wide Area Network Bandwidth Management System

(Reference No.: PB060802-EL0112)

1. The *National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO)* through the *CY2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TRANSCO Board*, intends to apply the sum of *Php 6,100,000.00* being the Total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Supply and Delivery of Upgrade / Expansion of Wide Area Network Bandwidth Management System.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.
2. The *TRANSCO-HO* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *ICT Resources*. Delivery of the GOODS is required *within thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of approved Purchase Order.* The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders, starting **September 6, 2006 to September 29, 2006 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.** at the address below and upon payment of nonrefundable fee in the amount of *One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00).* The method of payment will be CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The TRANSCO-HO will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **September 18, 2006 at 10:00 A.M.** at the same address below. Requests for clarifications on the bid documents should be submitted before the Pre-Bid Conference.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **2:00 P.M. of October 2, 2006.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form and amount:

Form of Security	Amount
1. Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, manager's check, bank draft or Irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)	Php 61,000.00
2. Bank guarantee (1.5% of ABC)	Php 91,500.00
3. Surety bond (2.5% of ABC)	Php 152,500.00
4. Foreign government guarantee (100% of ABC)	Php 6,100,000.00

or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

7. Bid opening shall be on **October 2, 2006 / 2:00 P.M.** at the *Admin Conference Rm. same address below.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Ave., corner BIR Road
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. (632) 9812235 / Fax No. (632) 9228432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – September 8 & 15, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
DR. JOSE FABELLA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital invites interested bidders/suppliers to bid for the supply and delivery of the following:

ITEMS	ABC	Pre-bid Conference (Reception Hall) 1:30 p.m.	Bid Opening (Reception Hall) 1:30 p.m.
Contract/Services:			
Ventilator Machine Rental	P16,500.00/unit	September 25, 2006	October 4, 2006
Janitorial Services	8,960,518.08	September 26, 2006	October 9, 2006
Medical Liquid Oxygen Including Vacuum Insulated Evaporator	3,360,000.00	September 27, 2006	October 10, 2006
LPG Gas	378,000.00	-do-	-do-
Supply and delivery of the ff:			
Drugs and Medicines	47,390,689.00	September 28, 2006	October 11, 2006
Medical Supplies	6,393,000.00	September 29, 2006	October 13, 2006
Dermatological/Disinfectant Supplies	319,390.00	-do-	October 16, 2006
Medical Gases	4,318,708.00	-do-	-do-
Laboratory Supplies	3,458,679.00	-do-	October 18, 2006
Radiology/Ultrasound Supplies	172,182.00	-do-	-do-
Linen Supplies	517,750.00	-do-	October 19, 2006
Miscellaneous Supplies	155,000.00	-do-	-do-
Foodstuffs	3,543,900.00	October 2, 2006	October 20, 2006

Bid documents and eligibility requirements may be secured from the BAC Secretariat, Administrative Office upon payment of corresponding fee which is non-refundable. For inquiries, contact tel. nos. 735-7144.

The DJFMH reserves the right to reject any or all bids and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated is the most advantageous to the government.

The DJFMH-BAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or losses that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made

(Sgd.) ELISEA S. MARQUEZ, M.D., D.P.B.A.
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Sept. 8 & 15, 2006)

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HOME FURNITURE - Rattan Framed Sofa Sets; 3-Seater & Single Seater Sofas; Bed Frames c/w Mattresses; URATEX Mattresses; Asstd. Pillows; Asstd. Comforters; Asstd. Curtains; Guest Chairs; Center Tables; Television Sets; GORENJE Mini Freezers; etc.
POWER/HAND TOOLS - CAMPBELL HAUSFELD Angle Die Grinder; CAMPBELL HAUSFELD 7" Air Sanders; CAMPBELL 3/4" Air Impact Wrenches; CAMPBELL HAUSFELD Air Screwdriver w/ Quick Change Chuck; CAMPBELL HAUSFELD 1/2" Air Ratchet; CAMPBELL HAUSFELD 1/4" Crown Stapler Kit; CAMPBELL HAUSFELD Painting System; Lubricator; etc.
MISCELLANEOUS - ATLAS COPCO MD 600 Air Dryer; Roll Manipulator; ATLAS COPCO Air Filter; Air Filters w/ Stand; H20 Holding Tank; Compressor / Pressure Tanks; Two Plane Balancing Kit For Enter-IRD/T; DATAPAC 1500 Vibration Analyzer; KEYSTONE Actuator Valves; Gate Valves; Compressor Assembly; After / Inter Cooler Cores; Compressor Auxiliary Skid Assemblies (Dismantled); Bearings; EBM Blower Assemblies; Network Access Controllers; Asstd. Breakers; Communication Cables; Office Desks; Surge Protectors; Automatic Voltage Regulators; Angle Grinders; Digital Computing Scales; Computer Accessories; ATLAS COPCO Compressor; Wrapping Machine; Scrap Metals; etc.

On View: Monday 18th September 2006 - 9am to 5pm & morning of sale day
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For further information please contact Carol Cosca at Tel: 852-2910 loc. 116
Email: carol.cosca@henrybutcher.com

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DOLE Secretary Brion to represent the RP in UN General Assembly

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT Secretary Arturo D. Brion will represent the Philippines in the 61st United Nations (UN) General Assembly High Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development at the UN General Headquarters in New York City, USA on Sept. 14 to 15. Brion is expected to further highlight the Philippines' global migration management model, following his successful representation of the country at the recent 14th International Labor Organization Regional Meeting in Busan, South Korea, and the 1st Asia Europe Meeting-Labour and Employment Ministers Conference in Potsdam, Germany. Labor Undersecretary for International Affairs Manuel G. Imson said that the UN high level dialogue is globally significant, as it seeks to identify appropriate ways and means to optimize the development impact of migration, and mitigate its adverse effects. "The forum will focus on the development of policies to achieve internationally-agreed development goals, specially the UN's Millennium Development Goals," he said. He said the Philippines' global lead on Decent Work was cited as a model in the launching of the "Asian Decent Work Decade" from 2006 to 2015 during the 14th ILO Regional Meeting in Busan.

PFLHRD 5th Biennial Symposium

THE PHILIPPINE FOUNDATION for Lung Health, Research and Development, Inc. (PFLHRD) in cooperation with the Philippine Heart Center Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine will have its 5th Biennial Symposium on September 21-22 at the MAB Hall of the Philippine Heart Center, East Avenue, Quezon City. With its theme "Varying Options in the Management of Adult and Pediatric Pulmonary Diseases," the symposium will tackle recent trends and options in the over-all management and care of adult and pediatric patients with respiratory disorders as well as explore some of the recent statements, guidelines and procedures that had occurred and developed during the past two years. The symposium's organizing committee consists of a new generation of pulmonologists with a carefully selected faculty committed to deliver to the participants an excellent learning module in the field of adult and pediatric Pulmonary Medicine. For registration and further information, please contact Bea Quetua/Carol Bicbic, Dr. Ma. Paz Mateo or Dr.Val Custodio/Ms. Pinky Curameng at Tel. Nos. 927-4555/ 925-2401 loc. 3832, Fax No. 9284050, Mobile 0917-8583066. PFLHRD's office is at 8/F Medical Arts Bldg., Philippine Heart Center, East Ave., Quezon City, with e-mail address at: lungfoundation@yahoo.com

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OBITUARIES

Dr. Jose Lirag Lapeña
peacefully joined his Creator on September 13, 2006 at the age of 84.

Papa, Papa Lolo, Kuya, Pepe, Doc
was a man of few words, who preferred to do much
for his family, his community, his country,
and for God.

His bereaved wife, Rosa Fabella;
children, Joey and wife, Josie Isidro, Cindy and husband Deke Amador,
Cecil†, Elmer and wife Agnes Lorenzana,
Corinna and husband, Kiko Llorin, Susan and Jo† Li;
granchildren Melay, Ro-an, Jica and their mother Maeyet Guanzon,
Kitt, Bi-an and their father Elmer Rueda, Crystal,
Justin, Li-an, Mei-Mei, Jeremy, Ricci and her father Jobbee Baens;
great granddaughter Maya and her father, JP de Guzman;
brothers and sisters, Patrocinio†, Pat† and Tony† Reyes, Luz and Paping Pangilinan,
Odette† Lapeña, Mely† and Cornelio† Alaisa, Amelia and Manny Bonifacio,
Ne and Maning Manaligod, and Boy and Norma Lapeña;
request relatives, friends and readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Don Bosco Chapel, Makati City.

RENATO CONSTANTINO

March 10, 1919 – September 15, 1999

On the 7th anniversary of his death,
his family remebers him with love and pride.

The true leader must seek above all acceptance from his/her people. For this, the leader must welcome both cooperation and dissent. The leader cannot expect conformity from everyone. There will always be a variety of views and solutions ranging from left to right....

A truly democratic leader does not automatically label critics as destabilizers nor dismiss them as leftists. Doing so negates all professions of adherence to democratic principles and instead betrays the fact that a subtle authoritarianism is taking root...

– Constantino, January 19, 1998

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:8

"There is no other way to life and to true inner peace, than the way of the Cross"
(from The Imitation of Christ by Thomas A. Kempis)

Forever in our hearts...

In memoriam

Ruben Africa Maralit

First Death Anniversary : September 16, 2006

Holy Mass at Nuestra Señora de los Remedios Base View Homes Compound, Lipa City at 10:00 am. Similar services at the Cathedral & Carmelite Church at Lipa City.

Babang Luksa prayers and Commemorative Celebration of his life follow at 11:00 a.m. at his residence, Emily St., Base View Homes, Lipa City.

OBITUARIES

"In Christ all shall be made alive..."
I Corinthians 15:22

HONORIO "Boy" SALONGA SIMBORIO

Died on Sept. 13, 2006

At the age of 56.

He is survived by his children **Chowie, Pompom, Jayjay & NJ**; wife **Inday**; sister **Aida**; brothers **Pepe & Juan, Jr.**; and sisters-in-law **Lita & Edna**.

His remains lie in state at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish along Broadway Ave., New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, Sept. 17, 2006, after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family and relatives of the late

JESUS MA. "POCHOLO" G. CUI, JR.

who joined his Creator on September 3, 2006

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and condoled with us in our moment of grief.

Sun Cellular brings back hottest 24/7 SIM

SUN CELLULAR FIRES UP YOUR URGE TO call and text round-the-clock as it brings back its hottest prepaid SIM-the Prepaid SIM that is pre-loaded with 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited. With the return of this best-selling power-packed SIM, cell phone fanatics can again enjoy free 7 days of continuous Sun-to-Sun calling and texting for only P150!

With this amazing deal, getting connected has never been as easy and as price-friendly. For one week and for only P150, you need not hold back on those precious SMS and talk time.

Availing Sun's SIM Pre-loaded with free seven days of 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited does not stop you from loading other Sun products. Stay in touch with your friends on Sun and other networks, download value added services such as ringtones and logos, send MMS to your family and friends and call your loved ones abroad with Sun's Regular Call Cards and Xpress Load. When your free 7 days of 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited expires, you can load up any of Sun's call cards. Simply choose from any of the following consumer-friendly prepaid product offerings:

O 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited (P150 for 7 days or P450 for 30 days) that gives you unlimited Sun-to-Sun calling and texting, all-day and all-night. The P150 denomination comes with P25 regular load while the P450 denomination comes with P50 regular load. Use these regular loads for calling and texting your friends on other networks, do VAS downloads, send MMS and make IDD calls and texts.

O 24/7 Text Unlimited (P50 for 7 days and P150 for 30 days) that gives you unlimited Sun-to-Sun texting plus free Sun-to-Sun voice calls. Get free 1 hour voice calls for the P50 denomination and free 4 hours for the P150 denomination.

O 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite (P20 for 2 days) that gives you unlimited Sun-to-Sun texting for as low as P20.

O Daylite Call and Text Unlimited (P100 for 12 days) that gives you unlimited Sun-to-Sun calling from 12 midnight to 6 p.m. (a total of 18 hours per day) and allows you to enjoy P1/min Sun-to-Sun calls from 6:01 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. plus take pleasure in unlimited texting all day and all night.

O Top10 IDD at P100 gives you 18 minutes of calling to any of the Top 10 countries/ destinations worldwide.

O Sulit Calls at P30 gives you one hour of Sun-to-Sun calling that is only P0.50/minute.

O Convert-a-Load (P25 for 5 days and P50 for 10 days) gives you more texts to other networks for as low as P0.71 centavos per text!

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SECURITY BANK
SECURITY BANK

SECURITY BANK OPENS IN NOVALICHES
Security Bank Corp continues to make its presence felt with another brand new model branch inaugurated in Novaliches, Quezon City. Along with several others recently opened, the Novaliches branch provides a pleasant banking experience for the Bank's customers with its modern facilities and a highly competent pool of service specialists who provide friendly, fast and efficient service. Shown are senior bank executives and special guests during the recent inauguration (from left): Victoria A. Coralejo, directress and vice president of School of St. Anthony; Fe T. Palileo, Security Bank director; Luz G. Kho, president of LOJ Foods Corp; Artemio P. Buenaventura, president of Double B Corp; Wellington S. Kho, president of Luwell Realty and Development Corp; Quezon City District II Councilor Allan Butch T. Francisco; Lilian Esther DJ Lim, Novadeci chair, and Alberto S. Villarosa, Security Bank president and chief executive officer. Security Bank Novaliches branch is conveniently located at the ground floor of the Krystle Building, 858 Quirino Highway, Novaliches, Quezon City.

CFSI fetes former UNHCR

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY SERVICES International (CFSI), a Philippine-based humanitarian organization, celebrates its 25th year of "rebuilding lives" in both domestic and international settings. CFSI is now working with 7,000 families in 28 conflict-affected barangays in Central Mindanao.

CFSI programs include: Organizing and assisting communities address their basic needs; initiating literacy and livelihood programs; educating and caring for 3,000 3- to 5-year-old children in 100 play centers; building/furnishing classrooms at the Irug-ug Elementary School; providing school supplies to 700 children, and providing food assistance to 565,000 conflict-affected children, women and men.

On Sept. 12, CFSI hosted a dinner for guest of honor Sadako Ogata at the Dusit Hotel Nikko. Odaka was formerly the UN High Commissioner for Refugees from 1991 to 2000, and is now the president of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica). She is recognized around the world as a leading figure in the humanitarian assistance and development arenas.

She has also been a prominent academic figure, as Dean of the Faculty of Foreign Studies at Sophia University from 1989 to 1991 and, prior to that, director of the Institute of International Relations and professor at the same university.

Amongst Ogata's recent publications are "The Turbulent Decade: Confronting the Refugee Crisis of the 1990s" published in 2005 and "The United Nations: In the Next Fifty Years" published in 1996.

Family Rosary Crusade's 28th year

THE STA. CATALINA COLLEGE COMMUNITY IN Legarda, Manila will celebrate its 28th Family Rosary Crusade with a 9-day novena from Sept. 29 to Oct. 7 at the SCC Chapel.

The theme for this year is "SCC Family: Pilgrims of Faith and Love to Jesus Through Mary and Her Rosary." Preparations are being made by this year's FRC chair couple Col. and Ms Florendo Quibuyen, in coordination with the SCC administrators, faculty, students, parents, and the SCC Family Advisory Council Inc (SCC-Faci) officers.

Steering committee members are: honorary chair: Mother Teresa Examen, OP, Prioress General; president: Sr. Ana Celestial, OP; vice-chair couple: Mr and Ms Francisco Mariazeta.

Chairs for the different committees are: Sr. Cheryl Pagulong, OP-liturgy and music; Mr and Ms Victor Cerdena-ways and means; Vilma Dominguez-decorations/arrangements; Sr. Felicidad Lipio, OP-reception/accommodation; Ana Melenie Mariazeta-publicity/neighborhood participation; Col. Florendo Quibuyen-procession/traffic safety; Sr. Melania Alcoriza, OP-refreshments; Mercy Abanes-restoration. Consultants are Sr. Ma. Concepta Roque, OP, Prioress and Mr and Ms Victor Cerdena (FRC 2005-2006 chair couple).

SAKURA OPENS AT MOA
Asia's songbird Regine Velasquez (2nd from left) and popular entertainer Ogie Alcasid (2nd from right) led celebrities who opened the Sakura Japanese restaurant at the Mall of Asia in Pasay City recently. This latest branch of the popular restaurant offers specialties such as Sakura-style tuna, salmon, sashimi and Sakura salad concocted by chef Archie Castillo (center) who trained extensively here and abroad to perfect the art of authentic Japanese cooking and presentation. Sakura's other treat is a grocery that offers a diverse selection of Japanese cooking ingredients, snacks, tea, sake, sochu and houseware. Also present at the opening are Mely Castillo (right) and Armando Castillo.

Rough it up

WHAT BETTER WAY IS THERE to complement the aggressive and rugged Nissan Murano than a Thule load system carrier? Designed to make traveling more convenient and pleasurable for your family, Thule's line of roof racks and load carriers are geared towards active individuals and families who like to explore the great outdoors. Thule provides you with the solution to maximize the load capacity of your car, AUV or SUVs. Unlike locally manufactured load carriers, Thule has an easy snap on, snap off feature which let's you install the load carriers with ease.

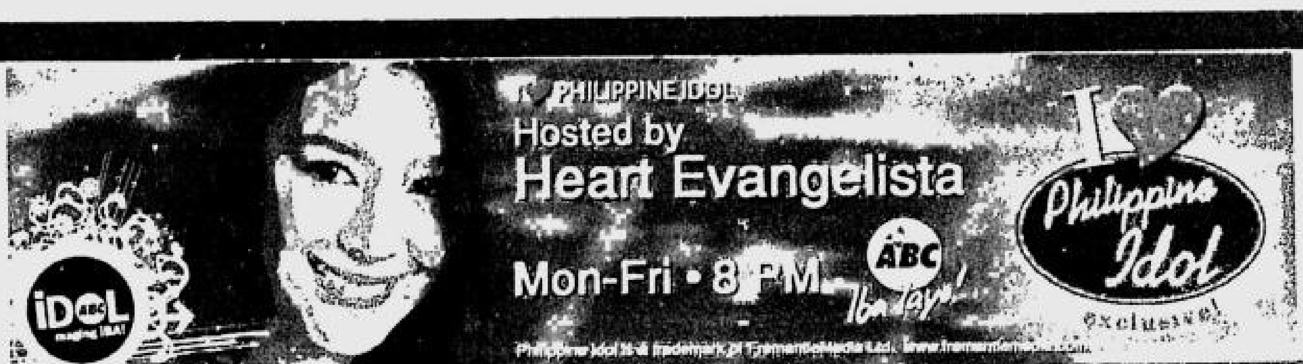
With Thule, there's no drilling required, it's guaranteed safe from rust, and is wind tunnel tested to aerodynamically complement the exterior design of any vehicle. Thule's line of load carriers are 100-percent machine made from Sweden and has passed the four seasons test of the ISO. Thule is the only accredited OEM designer in the local market and is a proud supplier of load carriers for brands such as Ford, Volvo, Land Rover, Nissan, Toyota, GM, BMW and Mercedes Benz.

All Thule roof racks and boxes are theft proof and water proof, which makes your personal effects safe even during the rainy season. The aerodynamic design provides a sleek look to the vehicle. Shown is the hottest SUV in town, the Murano equipped with Thule's X1 roof box and bike rack system. For more information on how to gear up and make your vacation a more adventurous one, load up and visit its display at Toyota Pasong Tamo or the Thule-EGR Showrooms in Ortigas Avenue at 744-6367 and Pasong Tamo at 892-7847, or log on to www.thule.com.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Friday, September 15, 2006



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2. Key in CTC TV and send to 2333 for Globe and to 225 for Smart. PhP2.50 per SMS sent.

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	[illegible]	[illegible]	10:30PM	[illegible]	11:30PM
ABC 5	Nickelodeon				Legend Of Shaolin Kung Fu	Mon Colle Knight	Sentro Headlines	Lety La Mas Fea		Doble Cara		Philippine Idol	Global Shockers		Raw Stories		Big News	TNA	Philippine Idol (11:45PM)
ABS-CBN 2		Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Yakitate Japan/ Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Calla Lily	Pangako Sa 'Yo	TV Patrol World		Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal	Super Inggo	Bituing Walang Ningning	Pinoy Dream Academy	Maalaala Mo Kaya			Bandila	Mirada De Mujer
AXN		Ronin					Ultimate Guinness World Records	Alias (Season IV)		Maximum Exposure (Season I)		Ultimate Guinness World Records	E Buzz	The Rundown				Army Of Darkness	
Cartoon Network	My Little Pony	All New Popeye Show	I am Weasel	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Winx Club	Xiaolin Showdown	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends/ Max Steel	Robotboy	Sayonara Samurai Jack/ Maruma De Pan	Pokemon/ Pokemon Johto Journey	Duel/ Justneers	Shaman King	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Gundam Seed	Shaman King
Cinema One		When I Fall In Love				Minsan Minahal Kita				Videoke King				Hula Mo Huli Ko				April Snow	
Cinemax																			
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		The Grid/ The Closer		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Extreme Evidence	Law & Order		Law & Order SVU/ Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Prison Break			
Discovery Channel	Connect	Engineering Series		Risk Takers		How Do They Do It	Building The Ultimate	Beyond Tomorrow		Rides		American Chopper		How Do They Do It	Building The Ultimate	The Xtremists		Crime Night	
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Unfabulous/ Bunny	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Emperor's New School	America's Funniest Home Video	Buzz on Maggie	Totally Spies	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		World Snooker Tour World Champs '06						UEFA Champions League Highlights 2006/07		LPGA Golf John Q. Hammons Hotel Classic Finals				Sportscenter Asia	Major League Baseball Thursday				
ETC		Veronica Mars 2		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Everwood 2		American Dreams 2		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen (Degeneres) Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Trading Spouses		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	The Good Code: The Natural Law	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	The Donut Man	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Backstage	The Gospel Of Life In Health	Defending Life	Life on The Rock Encore		Daily Mass		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	Parable	EWTN Bookmark	St. Thomas Aquinas In Today's World	Fr. John Corapi	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat (2:45PM)	Now and Forever (3:15PM)	Ang Pagbabago (3:45PM)		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Jewel In The Palace	24 Oras		Captain Barbell (7:10PM)		Majika		I Luv NY (8:50PM)	Love Of The Condor Heroes	Bubble Gang			Saksi
Hallmark Channel				Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F.B. Eye		McLeod's Daughters		Strong Medicine		Family Law		Midsomer Murders: Dark Autumn				Regenesis	
HBO	When Trumpets Fade			Sinbad Of The Seven Seas			Suburban Madness (5:35PM)			American Flyers (7:10PM)				Troy					Fearless (11:40PM)
Hero TV	Combattler V	Sunny Pig	Last Exile	Mirmo de Pon	Sugar: A Little Snow Fairy	Naruto	Inuyasha	Saiyuki Reload	Full Metal Panic	Yakitate! Japan	Mr Ajikko	Transformers Armada	Last Exile	Fortune Quest	BBDaman Bakugaiden V	Beyblade G-Revolution	Raijin-Oh	Combattler V	Yu-Gi-Oh GX
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	EBC Earth Files		Japan Video Topics/ Arts		EBC Earth Files		Travel Philippines	Japan Video Topics/ Arts	EBC Earth Files	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV		Back Track				Sweat	X-Play	Heat		Mad TV		That 70s Show	Everybody Hates Chris	Family Guy	American Dad	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Primetime Glick	The Late Show With David Letterman	
Lifestyle Network	Design Remix	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	DIY: Jewelry Making	Food Network Special		Boy Meets Grill	Intimate Portrait		My Crazy Life	Martha		Simply Wine With Andrea Immer	The Great Adventure	Iron Chef America	
MTV Philippines		Boiling Points	My Own		MTV Hits					Get Spotted		MTV Diyes		Boiling Points	My Own	MTV News	Handpicked: Up Dharma Down		
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXilog	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Versions	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXilog
National Geographic	Monkey Business	National Geographic Specials		Violent Earth: Tsunami		Mega Dams: Itaipu Dam		Top 5 - Amazing Space		Wow! The Whale Induna		About Asia		Inside 9/11: Bin Laden's Spy in America				Extraterrestrial: Blue Moon	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports Atbp.	Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sia?	Teledyaryo W/ Rey Langit & Angelique Lazo		GSIS Member's Hour		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K			
Net 25	INC Chronicles (Filipino)	In Focus	Euromaxx	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Dating Daan		Ang Pagbubunyag		News Beat (Live)		OpenLine Live	Kapatid Sa Hanapbuhay	Ang Mga Nagsi-Alis Sa Dating Daan		Ang Tamang Daan		World Report	In Focus	DWTV Journal News	Tomorrow Today
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!/As Told By Ginger	SpongeBob SquarePants	Rocket Power/Asian Anime Fest: Avatar: The Legend Of Aang/Kappa Mikey	Four Eyes	SpongeBob Squarepants/ Right On Top	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up/ Danny Phantom	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Unfabulous	Romeo!/ SpongeBob Squarepants	Naturally Sadie/ The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants/ All That	As Told By Ginger/ Romeo	The Fairly Odd Parents/ As Told By Ginger	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			James Bond Agent 001				Ang Daigdig Ko'y Ikaw				Walang Matigas Na Pulis Sa Matinik Na Misis				Fight Night 9				Salat Sa Ligaya
QTV	Always The Two Of Us	Shaman King	Outlaw Star	Galaxy Angel	MMS (My Music Station)		Moms		Phoenix	Irene		Sorry I Love You		Ganda Ng Lola Ko		News On Q	Love Life		Irene
RPN 9	TV Shopping				Kapatid Show	RPN Aksyon News		Complete Savages	Joke In Progress	NCIS		CSI Miami		Without A Trace		Newswatch Now	TV Greats On Friday		
SBN 21								Sony Music Video				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Shepherd's Voice		Sony Music Video	
Solar Sports						2006 FIBA World C'ship Games QF1				Sagupaan	NBA Special: 1984	2006 FIBA World C'ship Games QF2				Solar Sports Desk	NBA Access	Beach Volleyball: FIVB Women's Norway	
Sports Plus		Deutsche Bank C'ship Highlights		World's Greatest Auto Show Frankfurt		Chevy Rock & Roll 400 Highlights		World Game		Raceworld		Nopi Tunervision	RM Drifting	BD Lake Tahoe	Wild Side San Diego	Golf Today	Inside the PGA	84 Lumber Classic Day1	
Star Movies		Sci-Fi Inside: The Triangle (3:15PM)	Being Julia (3:45PM)				The Librarian: Quest For The Spear			Mr. 3000 (7:15PM)				Godsend			Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London (10:45PM)		
Star World	Arrested Development	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Monk		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	TNA Wrestling		Third Watch		NYPD Blue		Seinfeld	Walker Texas Ranger
Studio 23								Superman The Animated Series	Justice League Unlimited	Wazzup Wazzup	Nginig	Ghost Whisperer (8:15PM)		Living With Fran (8:15PM)	Will & Grace	News Central	Oprah (10:45PM)		MYXilog

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

BUSINESS

Releaf for the future

CalEnergy joins La Mesa Watershed Reforestation

CalEnergy International recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement with ABS-CBN Foundation's Bantay Kalikasan to adopt eight hectares of forest land for the Save the La Mesa Watershed Project. This was followed by a tree-planting activity at the site participated by volunteer employees.

The project aims to rehabilitate, protect and develop the watershed for water production, prevention of soil erosion and flood control, and to create a carbon sink to aid the reduction of air pollution.

"Support for the Save the La Mesa Watershed Project is in line with CalEnergy's environmental RESPECT policy", says CalEnergy President, Joseph Sullivan.

The La Mesa Watershed is adjacent to the Sierra Madre mountain range traversing Caloocan, Rizal and Quezon City. The La Mesa Watershed covers 2,700 hectares and is the last forest of its size in Metro Manila. In 1998, almost half of the watershed had been deforested. On June 1999, the ABC-CBN Foundation's Bantay Kalikasan took on the challenge of reforesting 1,500 hectares to ensure the sustainability of the La Mesa Watershed.

La Mesa supplies the water requirements of some 12 million urban residents of Metro Manila.

Watershed reforestation is not new to CalEnergy. In February 2005, the company launched the Casecnan Watershed Pilot Reforestation Program, which aims to support the sustainability of the watershed by rehabilitating over 3,500 hectares of forest land over a period of six years. The pilot program which involves family stewards and the local communities is now on its second year.

The facility, which is nestled between Nueva Ecija and Nueva Vizcaya, harnesses water generated from the watershed to irrigate the farmlands of Central Luzon and to produce 150 MW of electricity to supplement the energy requirement of Luzon. To help preserve the watershed, CalEnergy constructed its 26-kilometer tunnel and powerhouse underground, leaving the forest unharmed.

ABS-CBN Foundation Managing Director Gina Lopez shared her delight in partnering with CalEnergy in this endeavor. "It's wonderful to team up with an institution which adheres to good environmental practices such as CalEnergy. I commend them too because the energy they are generating in this country are all renewable and environment-friendly."

Joseph L. Sullivan hands to ABS-CBN Foundation Managing Director Gina Lopez, CalEnergy Philippines' donation to the Save the La Mesa Watershed Project. Witnessing the occasion are CalEnergy Vice President and Corporate Counsel Linda B. Castillo and Bantay Kalikasan Project Manager Beth Arriola.

SAVE THE LA MESA WATERSHED PROJECT

CalEnergy employees initially planted around 500 different species of timber last Saturday, contributing to the effort of rehabilitating the La Mesa Watershed.

ADVT

Cement firms cry foul

Entry of 'undervalued' cement scored

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A LOCAL GROUP OF CEMENT PRODUCERS has asked the Philippine Embassy in Beijing to look into the entry of allegedly undervalued imports from China that have been "flooding" some areas in Mindanao.

Ernesto M. Ordoñez, president of the Cement Manufacturers Association of the Philippines, said the group had sought the help of Ambassador Sonia Cataumber-Brady to bring to the attention of the Chinese government "the unfair practices in the export of their cement" to the Philippines.

Ordoñez said Cemap had explained to Brady through a letter that a shipment of Chinese Horse cement that arrived in Davao last June 28 was "grossly" undervalued.

"Documents gathered by Cemap show that the declared CIF (cost, insurance and freight) cost of the Chinese cargo was $30 per metric ton despite a Philippine Shipper's Bureau declaration that the freight of cement from China to the Philippines is $22 a ton," Ordoñez said.

The Cemap chief said a $30-per-ton CIF would mean that the cost of the cement cargo itself cost was only $8 a ton.

"This is way below the prevailing cement export price of $39 to $43 a ton as reported by the Department of Trade and Industry commercial attaché in Guangzhou, China," Ordoñez said.

Cemap has already lodged a complaint about the Mindanao shipment with the Bureau of Customs.

Ordoñez added that another case of undervaluation involved the Conch brand of cement from China.

Part of the shipment arrived in Polloc, Cotabato City last July 2 and in General Santos City last July 4.

According to Ordoñez, himself a former DTI undersecretary, undervaluation meant that the importers were depriving the government of much-needed tax revenues at a time when the country needed resources to fund vital social and economic expenditures.

"These undervalued imports that are sold at cheaper prices pose unfair competition to the domestic cement industry which pays billions of pesos in taxes annually," he said. "Worse, it threatens the livelihood of thousands of workers who depend on cement."

New rules on credit cards up

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT is drafting rules on surcharges slapped on consumers using credit cards to buy goods and services.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and Department of Trade and Industry are working together to craft a blueprint to better protect consumers using credit cards, BSP Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla Jr. said in a briefing.

The proposed rules will zero in on the practice of merchants, particularly appliance stores, of charging consumers extra if they use credit cards instead of cash.

Based on informal surveys of shopping malls, credit card users pay 3-6 percent more for their purchases compared to those who pay in cash.

"The DTI will issue a new circular on that. They are coordinating with the BSP," Espenilla said.

About 85-90 percent of transactions in the Philippines are still paid in cash or checks, with credit and debit card payments taking up the rest.

Espenilla said there was some concern that the use of credit cards was being stifled by the surcharges slapped by some merchants.

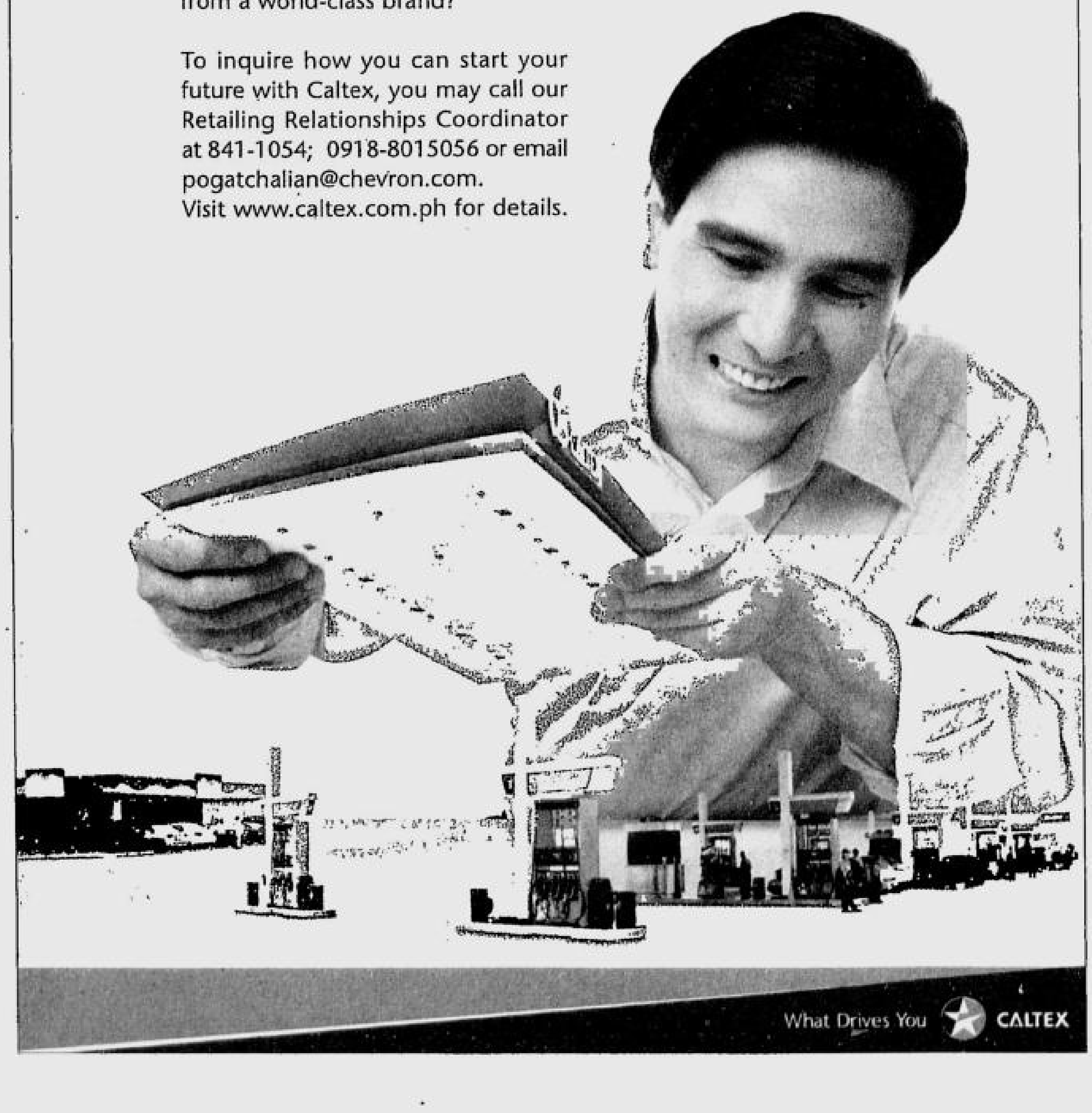
But as the merchants are not under the BSP's jurisdiction, Espenilla said it would be the DTI that would enforce the proposed regulations.

Card companies believe using credit instead of cash has a positive effect on the economy, as it allows people to plan their payments.

They also claim that using credit makes it easier for merchants to account for their sales.

Credit card issuers are also campaigning against merchants that pass on surcharges to consumers.

In other countries, such practices had resulted in the blacklisting of stores from the network.



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Day 2: Crisis Management & Media Response
Part 2: Rebuilding Corporate Reputation after the Crisis
• Repairing the Brand Image
Day 3: Strategic Public Relations Management
Part 2: What Does Your CEO Think of PR Work
• Using Marketing Research for Business Strategy
AIM Conference Center, Benavidez St. Makati City
September 26, 27, 28, 2006, 1:30 – 5:30pm

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Audience is now a player

Consumers create own content; capture own audience

IN THIS DAY AND AGE OF DIGITAL MEDIA, COMmunications specialists and marketers could no longer expect the audience to sit back, listen and absorb all that they want to say. What used to be a one-way street in communications has become a web of intertwining media. More importantly, the audience is beginning to exercise their power on content—influencing what they see, even creating their content and capturing an audience of their own.

Media communications agency Universal McCann examined the shifts in the local scene that are being brought about by user-generated content.

In the US, the growth of user-generated content (UGC) has been explosive. UGC includes audio, video, text or photos that are shared with others mainly through the Internet.

Over 35 percent of US adult Internet users have posted online content (from Pew Internet & American Life Project, May 2006). In the Aug. 7 issue of Ad Age, CNN has signed Dell as major sponsor of iReports, a program that encourages viewers to submit stories, photos or videos that may be published after being reviewed.

The Philippines is not behind in this phenomenon. The absence of a computer in the home does not mean non-Internet access. The McCann 2006 Inter-Generation Study, which talked to 2,000 urban Filipinos from 12-60 years old, shows that about a fourth of teens and young adults are logged in to the Internet to chat, e-mail or surf.

Virtual Connectivity / Technology

	12 to 20	21 to 30	31 to 40	41 to 60
Text messaging on the cell phone	40	42	㉙	15
Play computer games	38	21	8	4
Use Internet to email, chat, surf	27	22	5	4

BASE : TOTAL RESPONDENTS

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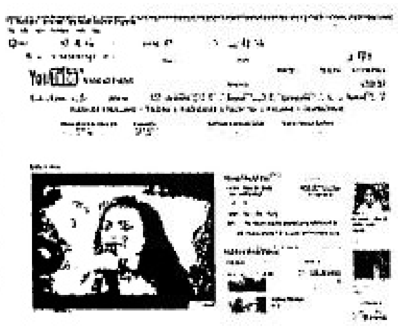
Networking and blogging are the most common UGC-related activities. It may seem contrary to the Filipino's nature to be outspoken, but a lot are beginning to share more of themselves in this medium: from knowledge, experiences, or feelings, to things that they simply find funny.

According to friendster.com, one of the social networking sites frequented by teens and young adults, there are in excess of 4.5 million individual registered members located in the Philippines.

Of these, 85 percent check their profiles at least once a month, and many log in about thrice a week.



On the other hand, local actress Alyssa Alano's rendition of "Kiss Me" was much talked about after it was posted on youtube.com.

The list of top local blogs gives one an idea of the diverse range that interests Pinoy surfers.

Not only are Pinoys invading digital media with their content, they are exercising their power to influence the content of traditional media too. TV for one is becoming more interactive. Top-rating programs are allowing consumers to influence future content. The audience can send their votes on issues they want to pursue or talents they want to win; they can send

AUDIENCE/ B2-2

Local Population Profile

Gender	
Males	40 %
Females	60 %
Age Range	
16-17 years	11%
18-20 years	36%
21-24 years	31%
25-29 years	13%
30-34 years	4%
35-39 years	1%
40-48 years	1%
49 +	4%

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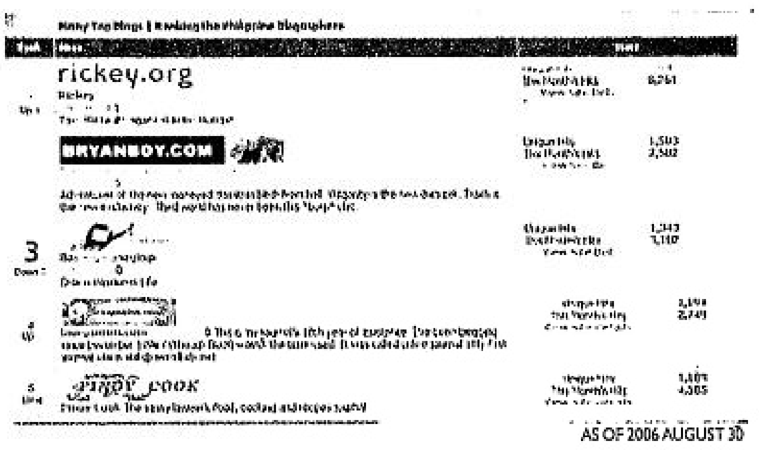
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AS OF 2006 AUGUST 30

The art of creating wealth

IF YOU WANT TO GET rich, how would you do it? There are a number of ways.

Best-selling author Robert G. Allen said it best in his book, "Creating Wealth." The very first step is to stop thinking poor. Another sound advice is never get yourself too deep in consumer debt. Maybe you could invest in real properties or valuable objects that accumulate in value as time passes by.

But if you're already building up some wealth, now's the time to consider ways of managing wealth wisely. The question is, how does one manage wealth?

According to BDO Private Bank wealth advisory and trust group's (BDO PB WATG) Gamalielh Benavides, wealth management is a holistic and disciplined approach in analyzing an individual's financial objectives and creating a plan to meet those objectives. The plan will take into account the individual's unique life circumstances, life stage and risk/return appetite to produce an appropriate budget and investment plan that would meet the individual's short- and long-term needs, including passing on wealth to the next generation.

"For starters, how does one go about creating wealth? There are several

THE ART/ B2-2

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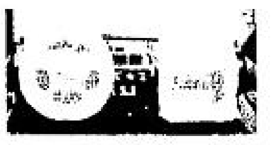

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The right to be informed

TAX-FILES

By Ronald Steven A. Arriesgado and Ma. Fides A. Balili
SGV & Co.

APRIL 17, 2006 MARKED THE last day of the filing with the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) annual Income Tax Returns (ITR) of individuals, corporations and partnerships. Taxpayers heave a sigh of relief for meeting the deadline, what after months of frantic and feverish work and preparation to have the ITRs done. Except for a few unlucky ones.

During this time of the year we also see the BIR issuing tax assessment notices to a number of unlucky taxpayers. A taxpayer is issued an assessment notice if the BIR, after due investigation, finds that proper taxes should be assessed: income tax, value added taxes (VAT), and expanded withholding taxes (EWT) to name a few.

Once served with an assessment notice, most taxpayers are at a loss on how to respond, especially in cases where the taxpayer feels the assessment is unjustified. In some cases, taxpayers are overwhelmed and find it difficult to understand the assessment notice itself.

So what does the taxpayer have to do? Section 228 of the Tax Code as implemented by Revenue Regulations (RR) No. 12-99 provides for the remedies that are available if one is issued an assessment notice by the BIR. The remedies help the taxpayer to effectively respond, or precisely, to "protest" an assessment notice issued by the BIR.

Once the BIR finds that proper taxes should be assessed, a taxpayer is first notified in writing of the discrepancies in the taxpayer's payment of his internal revenue taxes, for the purpose of an "Informal Conference." In the Informal Conference, a taxpayer is given the chance to present his side of the case and to explain why the assessment issued by the BIR is unjustified.

If the taxpayer fails to respond within 15 days from date of receipt of the notice for informal conference, the BIR shall issue a pre-assessment notice (PAN) informing the taxpayer of the findings made. The taxpayer is given a period of 15 days from receipt of the PAN to reply.

If the BIR is unhappy with the taxpayer's response, the BIR issues a formal letter of demand and a Formal Assessment Notice (FAN) ordering the payment of the taxpayer's deficiency taxes. The FAN and the formal letter of demand are required to state the facts, the laws, and the rules and regulations upon which the assessment is based; otherwise the assessment is void. A void assessment produces no effect and the taxpayer is not required to pay the taxes assessed by the BIR.

Within 30 days from receipt of the FAN, the taxpayer should file a protest letter with the BIR. The protest should state the issues, as well as all the facts, and the applicable laws, rules and regulations. Within 60 days from the filing of the protest letter, the taxpayer is required to submit all the relevant supporting documents. If the protest letter is denied by the BIR, the taxpayer may file an appeal to the Court of Tax Appeals (CTA) within 30 days from receipt of the BIR's decision; otherwise, the decision becomes final.

The requirement that the assessment notice should state the facts, the laws, and the rules and regulations upon which the assessment is based, in other words, how the assessment should be worded, is a very crucial provision. Disregarding this requirement produces a void assessment, clearly an expensive mistake the BIR does not want to make.

The reason for the requirement of stating the facts and the law is a measure to ensure that a taxpayer knows why he is being assessed by the BIR. Knowing why the assessment is issued against him would certainly help the taxpayer in preparing his protest letter.

Thus, when issued an assessment notice, the first thing that a taxpayer should do is to see if the assessment notice does indeed contain the law and the facts. However, even if an assessment is clearly void (because it fails to state the law and the facts), the BIR will never easily concede defeat and in almost all instances, it is the courts who get to settle the issue.

We now know the importance of why the assessment notice should contain the facts and the law. However, which assessment notice are we talking about? If you will recall, Section 228 mentions two assessment notices: The PAN and the FAN. Moreover, although RR No. 12-99 states that the FAN should contain the law and the facts, Sec. 228 is however unclear as to which assessment notice. Or should it be both?

Fortunately, these questions are not new and disputes on the proper application of Sec. 228 have been tackled by our courts.

Quite recently, the Supreme Court issued a landmark decision in the case of Azucena T. Reyes vs. Commissioner of Internal Revenue promulgated on January 27, 2006.

The Reyes case answers the questions raised by the interpretations of Sec. 228 made by the lower courts, such as :

- Is the requirement of stating the facts and the law mandatory on the part of the BIR?
- Is a taxpayer's actual knowledge of the assessment enough to make a void assessment valid?
- Does the act of submitting an intelligently worded protest letter mean that the FAN need not contain the law and the facts?

The requirement of informing the taxpayer is an obligation of the BIR, a requirement which is mandatory in nature. The Court said, "the law imposes a substantive, not merely a formal, requirement."

The BIR then is mandated, despite a possible actual knowledge of the taxpayer of the assessment, to inform the taxpayer in writing of the law and the facts. A taxpayer's actual knowledge of the assessment does not justify the noncompliance of the requirements of the Tax Code.

Thus, the actual knowledge by the taxpayer of the assessment does not in any way validate an otherwise void assessment, as the taxpayer must be informed through the assessment notice itself, not in any other manner or form.

The process of informing the taxpayer of the facts and the law cannot be made in any manner except the manner strictly prescribed by the Tax Code. A void assessment then, cannot be cured by the fact that the taxpayer has intelligently prepared a protest letter in response to the issues raised by the BIR in the assessment.

To recap, the following can be gathered from the consolidated Reyes case:

- The obligation of the BIR to inform the taxpayer in writing of the factual and legal basis of the assessment is mandatory;
- The taxpayer's actual knowledge of the assessment does not justify the noncompliance of the requirements of Section 228 of the Tax Code; and
- The formal letter of demand itself should contain the facts and the law on which the assessment is based.

With this recent development, it is hoped that the BIR will take the cue and ensure strict compliance with Sec. 228 of the Tax Code. In this case, stricter is definitely better.

The art of . . .

From page B2-1

sources, such as wealth that is inherited. Secondly, wealth is a result of flourishing businesses and the most common is wealth accumulated as one goes up the corporate ladder," Benavides said.

For those who inherited their wealth, BDO PB WATG assists the current generation to further increase their wealth so that, just like their previous generation, they can pass it on to the next generation. BDO PB WATG does the same thing for entrepreneurs by taking care of their financial assets while they focus on their businesses. The bank also provides information on capital markets and recommends investment strategies for those who need help or advice to grow their money. "We pay close attention to the unique circumstances and objectives of our clients to produce unique financial solutions to their requirements. We also pay close attention to the confidential nature of our business," Benavides said.

Clarissa Peñalosa, BDO PB WATG's tax and estate planning specialist, further added that BDO Private Bank is the only local private bank which provides comprehensive financial advisory and management, and trust and estate planning services backed by a team of highly trained and seasoned financial, investment and trust/legal officers.

"In BDO Private Bank, we have made tax planning an indispensable component of our said services," Peñalosa said. "While tax planning in its proper perspective is subordinate to their true goals, nonetheless this cannot be ignored as taxes always bear significantly on whether their final objectives are in fact achieved."

"We can provide a wide range of services from individual investment strategies to comprehensive estate planning. Under a financial advisory and investment management account, the BDO PB WATG will only recommend a financial plan and specific investment strategies to the client. The decision to implement the plan and invest in certain securities will still be made by the client," Peñalosa said. "Our goal at BDO is to assist you in achieving your life goals through the provision of advice and financial services. We aspire to a high level of client satisfaction and seek to offer what is often lacking in today's frenzied world, a personal touch."

For more information, call 848-6301, 848-6302, 848-6304 and 848-6267 or email us at wealthadvisors@pb.bdo.com.ph.

Asians going 'contactless'

By Edd Fuentes
Contributor

ASIANS ARE GOING "CONTACTLESS" —and they're having great pleasure doing it.

Like the rest of the world, Asian consumers are finding the convenience, speed and security of the revolutionary "contactless" payment method very much suited to their busy lives. Contactless payment is made possible by an embedded chip and radio frequency antenna, which enables consumers to simply tap their cards or devices to the reader to pay for their purchases. The card/device transmits payment details wirelessly, eliminating the need to fumble for cash or coin or swipe a card!

"Contactless payment is the way of the future," Richard Fletcher, MasterCard Worldwide group head of mobile/ wireless, said during the recent MasterCard Product Forum and Technology Fair at the Hong Kong Exhibition and Convention Center. "There's really an overall preference for electronic forms of payment than cash among consumers and contactless payment best delivers what they need. It is a fast, convenient and secure alternative to cash that allows for small ticket purchases to be completed quickly, securely and easily."

MasterCard's research, market trials, and standardization of communications protocol for contactless payments has paved the way for the increasing demand and rollout globally of the innovative payment method. In 2004, MasterCard introduced MasterCard PayPass, its contactless payment feature that allows the consumers to just tap their card or device on a point of sale terminal reader rather than swiping or inserting their card or handing it to a cashier.

PAY PASS soccer ball key chains in Taiwan.

Specially designed to replace cash payments, PayPass is well suited for transactions where speed is important—in supermarkets, convenience stores, drive-through outlets, takeaway outlets, tollgates, movie theaters, restaurants and mass transport. PayPass also provides more consumer control and security inasmuch as the card or device does not leave the hands of consumers to be inserted into the terminal by the merchant's personnel.

"Aside from convenience, contactless payment technology is also developed to combat fraud. Most incidents of fraud take place as a result of cards changing hands. The contactless payment method eliminates that risk as no one other than the owner will touch the PayPass-enabled cards or devices in the course of transactions," Fletcher explained.

The uptake of MasterCard's contactless payment feature in the Asia/Pacific, Middle East, and Africa region went up by 55 percent from January to May 2006 compared to the same period in 2005. As of Q2 2006, there were nearly 10 million PayPass cards and devices issued and 32,000 merchant locations around the world.

Fletcher reported that Asia/Pacific is a beehive of activities insofar as contactless payment is concerned. This year alone, MasterCard has introduced eight significant PayPass pilots, programs and collaborations in Asia with Taiwan as the leading proponent, where PayPass cards and devices have been issued, including the revolutionary 3D soccer ball key chain and 2006 Fifa World Cup MasterCard watch.

Elsewhere, PayPass has also made significant strides, including the Philippines, where the Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) is pioneering contactless payment with its PayPass pilot program.

In Korea, MasterCard has collaborated with Samsung Card, SK Telecom, LG TeleCom, and KFT to pilot the use of mobile phones as contactless payment devices; in Japan, the first full-scale rollout of PayPass has been announced in partnership with Orient Corp. and IKSPIARI Co.; in Lebanon, Fransabank and MasterCard has piloted a smart card enhanced with PayPass; in Australia, the Commonwealth Bank of Australia has piloted its PayPass program; in Malaysia, MBF Cards Sdn Bhd has launched the first MasterCard Fifa World Cup™ card with OneSmart MasterCard PayPass application; and in Thailand, the pilot launch of PayPass has been announced by Payments Solutions and MasterCard.

"The strong uptake of MasterCard PayPass only goes to show the keen interest of Asian consumers, financial institutions, and merchants alike in the contactless payment feature," Fletcher said.

He explained why this is so.

"It's really a win-win situation for all. For financial institutions, adopting MasterCard PayPass can increase GDV by attracting payments away from cash, open up new acceptance opportunities for quick-pay environments, and increase cardholder loyalty for their card programs. For retailers, it helps speed up lines and frees their staff to focus on more than just payments, increases average transaction amounts spent as compared to cash, and helps attract new customers and increases their loyalty. For consumers, it provides a quick, easy payment solution, an increase feeling of security, and better record-keeping than cash," he explained.

As it grows considerably, contactless payment also evolves in form to suit the styles of consumers. From the traditional card shape, it now comes in the form of key fobs, key chains, tags and wristwatches. Fletcher revealed that MasterCard is already working with a handset manufacturer to pilot the use of mobile phones as contactless payment devices in the near future.

(The author is a PR practitioner. MasterCard Philippines is a client.)

New software to help call centers

EDUCATION SOFTWARE SPEcialist and Neurolanguage Corp. EVP for product line Richard Stanton is scheduled to meet with top officials of leading call centers for possible implementation of the Neurolanguage Practice Suite education software in call centers in the country.

The call center business is one of the fastest growing sectors within the IT software and services industry in the whole world. Since 2003, around $60 billion has been spent on call center services worldwide and more than 300,000 call centers have been established. In the Asia-Pacific hub, the Philippines has slowly threatened India's place as the call center destination in the region. With more than 50 call centers in the country, including in-house company centers, the Philippines looks set to surpass India, Singapore and Australia as the most attractive location for outsource call center services in the area.

Stanton was in the country last November 2005 and conducted two days of intensive training of its Philippine business partner, Gemini IT Consulting and a seminar for representatives of call center companies, schools, universities and colleges, as well as Department of Education and CHEd representatives.

During his brief stay last year, Stanton introduced the Neurolanguage approach that was developed in cooperation with and in coordination with the world-renowned Harvard Business English Publishing Corp.

The Neurolanguage E3 Suite for English Language Development can aptly be described as one of the most effective and innovative methodology that has helped corporations and governments in countries like Canada, China, England and the United States to address proficiency, fluency and comprehension problems regarding the use of the English language.

It is basically composed of the Neurolanguage Accelerator, which provides the avid student with the foundation skills required in developing subconscious English language processing capabilities. The Neurolanguage Builder, the next stage, increases the effectiveness of the English language program by providing relevant, real world content and practice exercises that enhance depth and complexity. The third step is the Neurolanguage practice software.

Gemini, under its president and CEO Renato Reyes, is the appointed Philippine partner of Neurolanguage Corp.

According to Reyes, Stanton will promote the Neurolanguage Practice Suite. This particular program makes use of the latest speech recognition technology to help students improve both oral delivery and auditory recognition. It also helps build confidence with the use of the language.

The unique and innovative software is regarded as highly beneficial to call center employees as it will definitely provide them the much needed proficiency in English communication skills.

Audience is now a player

From page B2-1

videos that show personal experiences or expose corruption. There are several round-the-clock TV channels where chatting is possible. One may be directing his message to several people only but it's being broadcast in all the areas these channels reach.

Opportunities

All this will impact the way brands stay in touch with their consumers, and ultimately, how successful it will be in creating demand. A number of opportunities present themselves.

1. Consumers will talk about your brand with their community, no matter what.

Good or bad, consumers post their brand experiences in their blogs or forums. It pays to keep track of the content, not only to watch out for bad press, but more because this is the voice of the consumer. Listening and responding to them will create goodwill, possibly long-term ties with, and ultimately regular patronage from the consumer.

Chatting on TV : Some facts-in-brief

Viewers' Profile:
Upper and middle classes; age ranging from 13-45 years

Penetration:
Over 300,000 registered mobile phone numbers (all cable systems combined)

Usage Traffic:
Average of 30,000 texts/day

SOURCE: CABLE BOSS

2. A brand can inspire the content consumers will generate.

Stemming from the earlier point, a positive brand experience can inspire content. Consumers will spread the word, photo or video if they feel it's worth their community's time. A brand can also influence content more deliberately. Sony Pictures, for example, recently partnered with YouTube to solicit user-generated trailers for the movie "Click." It easily created buzz and anticipation for the movie, especially since the channel befits the movie's nature.

3. Women content generators are strong brand allies.

We noticed from our various sources that women tend to be highly engaged in channels that allow them to keep their community ties. Enjoining them to be more involved in the brand will work to its advantage. As Faith Popcorn said in her book "EVEolution," "women don't buy brands, they join them." If the thrust is along the lines of relationship-building and information-sharing, trust the women to help stimulate discussion and talk about an interesting product or service.

What about the males, aren't they content generators too? Yes, and they seem to be more of visuals generators; photos and videos are their content-of choice. A brand would more likely benefit from content he generates if the aim is to primarily create buzz or excitement for the brand.

For questions, call Universal McCann Consulting at 757 2333.

BayanTel eyes info management niche

Business data storage increasingly needed due to new government rules

By Riza T. Olchondra

BRIGS M. Merin

BAYANTEL MAY NOT BE ABLE TO beat the other telecommunications firm in the traditional fixed line business but it is now poised to beat other telcos in providing business information storage and management services.

Business information storage is increasingly needed in the face of government regulations, technological shifts, and the drive to keep data available even during natural or manmade disasters, BayanTel chief information officer Brigs M. Merin said.

BayanTel, with an annual revenue of more than $100 million, is the majority owner and operator of TelicPhil, which has one of only two high-capacity fiber optic backbones in the country. The backbones provide connections to other telcos so that they, in turn, can provide services to their customers.

With its superior network and recently consolidated data storage system, BayanTel can easily serve large businesses.

"The costs and efforts needed for a company to put up its own data storage and management center with a disaster recovery system is prohibitive (even for big businesses)," Merin said.

Merin said BayanTel can easily serve new, large customers while satisfying its current client base of residential, micro-businesses and small businesses.

BayanTel is currently offering voice and Internet services to residential, micro-businesses and small businesses, as well as voice, data and Internet services to local conglomerates, multinational companies and business process outsourcing service providers.

Merin said his target is for BayanTel to act as business enabler in achieving revenue growth, improving customer service and operational productivity. In order to do this, BayanTel partnered with storage hardware and solutions provider EMC2.

EMC2 helped BayanTel improve the costs of IT initiatives, improve data network infrastructure and systems with limited resources, deal with mixed legacy and new systems infrastructres, and support aggressive 24-hour satisfaction guarantee program.

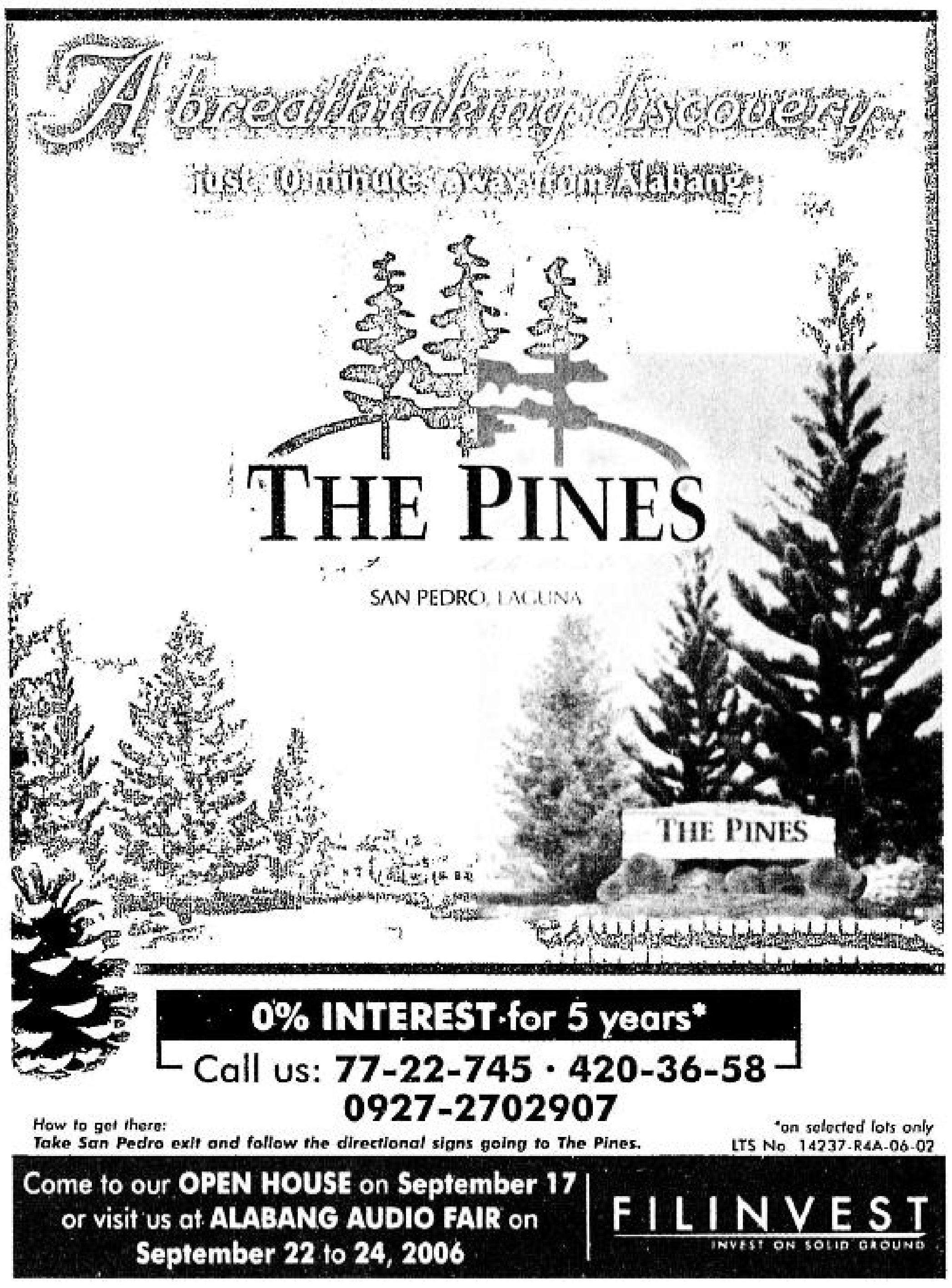
Ron Goh, EMC2's vice-president for Asia-Pacific/Japan commercial and channel sales, said BayanTel is among the first telcos to consolidate its data storage and management system.

EMC2 provided help in understanding the telco's business strategy and provided BayanTel inputs on IT transformation strategy, particularly in capacity planning of our new storage systems, storage consolidation, full redundancy set up and information life cycle management.

From having complicated storage network that impeded easy pullout of data from various information islands, BayanTel now has a disaster recovery system made up of just a main site and a secondary site that are mirror images of each other.

The system not only has a self-monitoring system and the ability to predict when a component needs repair or upgrading, it also keeps identical records in the main and secondary sites so that when the main site gets damaged during emergencies such as an earthquake or becomes inaccessible, the second site can be accessed for the same data to ensure smooth operations.

Additional load needed to serve other companies can simply be plugged into waiting components under a scalable growth plan.



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To spark...

From page B2-4

"Expectations vary depending on what a brand communicates to its audience and individual perception of that message. Most companies over promise and under deliver." A rare few do the opposite. Louis Vuitton, maker of luxury leather goods, doesn't explicitly offer a lifetime warranty on its products. In fact, the company's documentation states a charge will be applied for repairs. The salesperson to whom you return your faulty product reiterates this when you take it in for repair. But when you come back to collect your item, you'll almost never pay for the service. The salesperson assures you this was done especially for you. (Ed's note: Louis Vuitton Philippines says it charges for all repairs)

"Does this build your brand?

"Certainly it does. The tactic leaves consumers feeling they got more than they expected. It makes them feel happy and inclined to tell other people about the experience. Word of mouth is a powerful brand-building too—when those words are positive.

"Have you built an over delivery component into your brand's operations that might inspire customers to rave about you to friends? Have you designed an unofficial policy that ensures customers will be delighted by your brand, now and in the future? Is a practice in place to confirm your brand thrives on seeing smiling faces leaving the store?

"The potential for over delivery is everywhere. It's behind the promises your brand makes. It's about what consumers can do on your Web site. It's at home in newsletters. Your guarantee, stated response times, average waiting times, service statements—all are opportunities to under promise and over deliver. If I'm told you'll respond to my e-mail within 48 hours, do it within 24.

"If I'm told the warranty is for 12 months, don't deny service if I arrive with a faulty product 12 months and 9 days after purchase.

"Branding still seems to be logo-fixated. It's viewed by some as a matter of plunking that logo in the upper righthand corner of every piece of communication. Sorry to say, brand building does not stop with the logo.

"Branding is communicating the spirit of your brand. The more credible and strongly defined your brand's spirit, the more widely its reputation spreads. It spreads by word of mouth, the ultimate branding technique. It is one you can't buy but is worth its weight in gold.

"Word of mouth relies on exceeded expectations. Manage your customers' expectations. You'll be rewarded with their loyalty and the power of their word."

If you have any questions for Martin Lindstrom or the rest of the Global Brand Forum (GBF) faculty made up of Jack Trout, Faith Popcorn and David Aaker, just e-mail them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net For more info on the GBF visit www.globalbrandforum.org or call at 813-2732. God bless!

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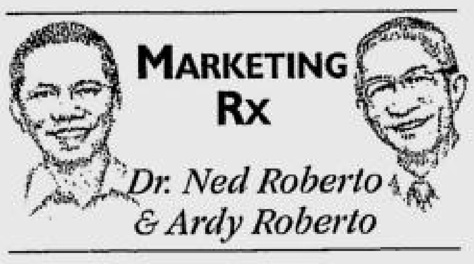
BUSINESS Friday

To spark word of mouth, under promise and over deliver



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

MUCH INTEREST WAS RAISED BY OUR Word of Mouth (WoM) marketing series in this column. In that series, we focused on the WoM media, the media that multiplies WoM (TV) and the triggers. But a reader/entrepreneur asks: "I have two businesses but I don't have much of an advertising budget. What can I do to increase the chances of having my customers do my advertising for me via word of mouth?"

To answer that question, we turn this time to Martin Lindstrom. He is the best-selling author of "Brand Sense, Brand Child" and "Clicks, Bricks and Brands." Lindstrom's story in itself is amazing. He was born in 1970 and founded his own advertising agency at the age of 12. Needless to say, Lindstrom has a highly unusual background. According to the Chartered Institute of Marketing, the rapid rise of his career has made him one of today's most respected branding gurus in the world. He sits on several boards globally, and his clients include Disney, Pepsi, American Express, Mercedes-Benz, Reuters, McDonald's, Kellogg's, Yellow Pages and Microsoft.

Lindstrom was the global COO for British Telecom/LookSmart, an executive at BBDO, the founder and CEO of BBDO Interactive Asia, and co-founder of BBDO Interactive Europe, both of which grew to become their region's largest Internet solution company. Lindstrom will be a featured speaker, along with brand gurus David Aaker, Jack Trout and Faith Popcorn, at the Global Brand Forum (www.globalbrandforum.org) in Singapore this November.

Lindstrom: Manage expectations

"When a customer complains about your product, service, guarantee, or Web site, it's not always because the quality was lousy. It may have been because you didn't manage that customer's expectations.

"Even when I was a kid, I noticed when a new LEGO kit came with a couple extra bricks. I loved it! I actually thought LEGO was giving me something extra, an unexpected bonus. A gift! For me! Decades later, I realized those "extra" blocks weren't really special gifts. They were, of course, the result of operational expedience and economy. The number of blocks in a box is determined by optimal running requirements of whatever production line is operating.

"Little I knew, yet how happy I was! And how often I spoke to my friends about my joy. The recollection is instructive.

"How often does any brand actually over deliver?

"What brand lately has given you more than you expected? To answer that apparently simple (yet actually complex) question, you must analyze what you, as a consumer, expect of a brand.

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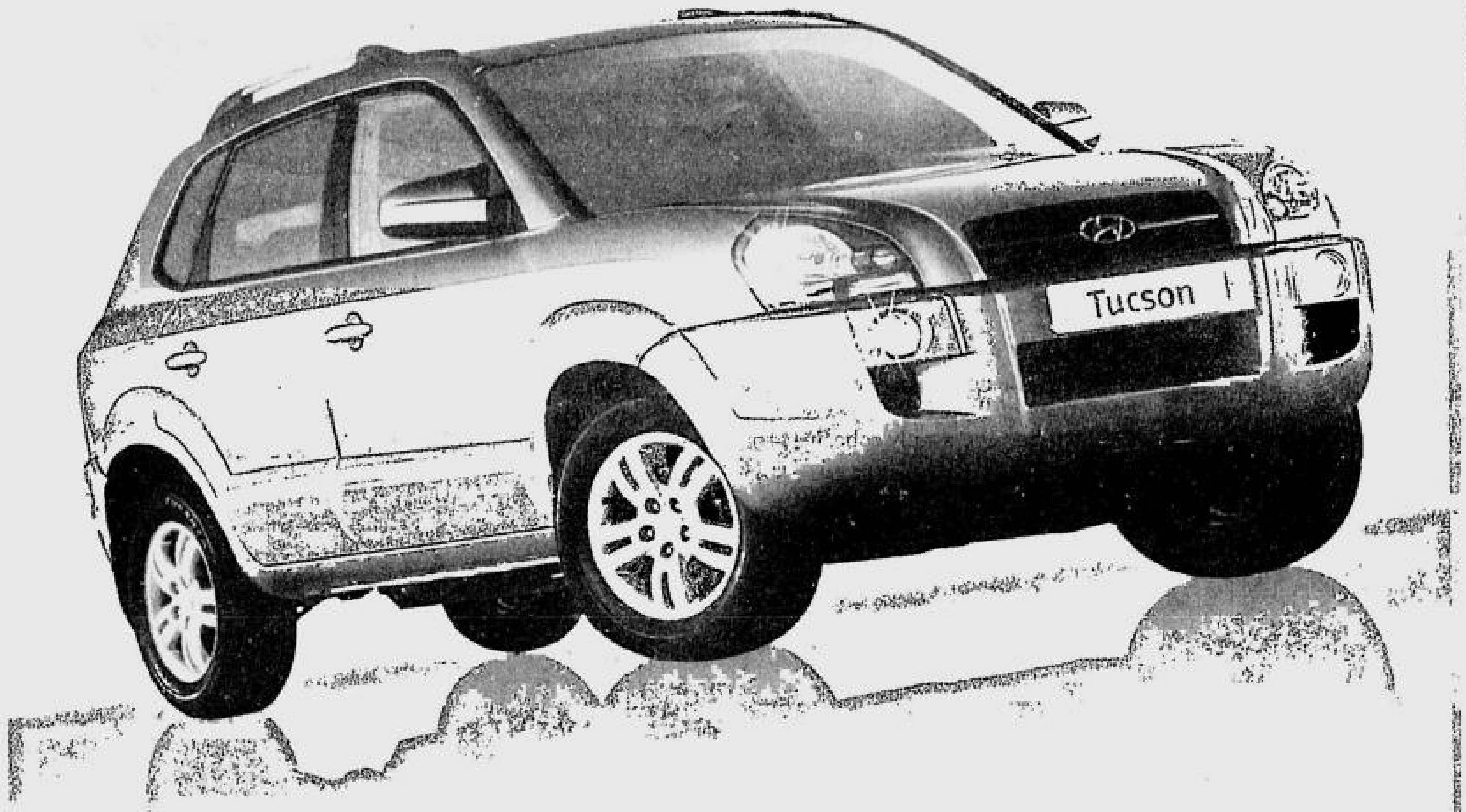

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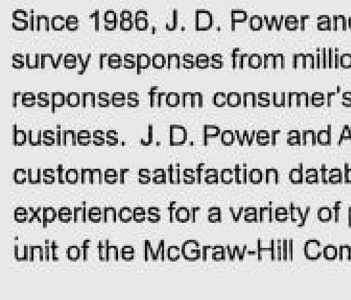

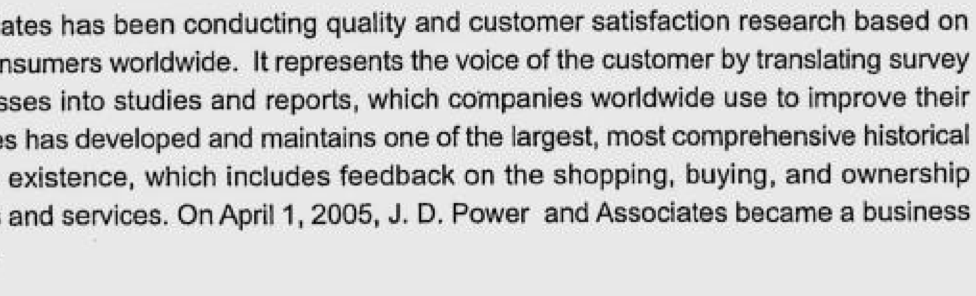

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HYUNDAI'S BRAND VALUE RISES

Hyundai continues to make its mark around the globe. Based from the results of the 2006 Best Global Brands survey jointly conducted by Interbrand, a leading consultancy in branding, and Business Week, the New York-based global media organization, Hyundai Motor Co. has emerged as one of the world's leading brands ranking 75th overall, a remarkable 10 spots leap from its last year's debut appearance in the Best Global Brands list at 84th place.

With a brand value estimated at $4.1 billion, the power of the Hyundai brand on a global scale now surpasses several competitors. This makes Hyundai the fastest growing brand, earning a place among the top five biggest gainers in brand value.

This appreciation in Hyundai's brand value is an upshot of proper brand management backed up by their continuous improvement in the quality of their products. Public perceptions of the Hyundai brand have improved dramatically as the quality of the Hyundai products continue to be at par with the high global standards.

In the recent AutoPacific Study, Hyundai has been named as the Ideal Vehicle Brand for 2006. This study ranked auto manufacturers for how closely their 2006 model year cars or trucks came to matching owners' expectations and criteria. And the results of this study which gave the recognition to Hyundai as the Ideal Vehicle Brand attest that Hyundai has constantly met the needs and demands of the customers, thereby, increasing its brand value.

In the Philippines, Hyundai continues to shine brighter in the hearts of Filipinos. In the recent sales report posted by the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers in the Philippines, Inc., Hyundai now occupies the 5th spot in the 2006 year-to-date Industry Sales Performance. The Hyundai Starex remains the No.1 Luxury Van in the country, and other Hyundai vehicle models keep on a steady increase in sales. In the passenger car category, Hyundai holds 6% share of the market, while in the SUV category, Hyundai has the 2nd highest market share at 18.3%. In the Light Commercial Vehicle category, Hyundai holds the 2nd spot with 11% market share. Leading the line-up are Getz, Tucson, Santa Fe, Accent, and Matrix, which have consistently drawn the attention of customers and have kept the sales records of Hyundai increasing. Furthermore, the dealership network of Hyundai in the country now has a wide reach with a total of 24 authorized dealers situated in strategic locations nationwide, and 8 more to open by the end of this year. Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc., the exclusive distributor of Hyundai vehicles in the country has been recognized as the fastest growing dealership network. All these show there is gained confidence in the brand among customers and automotive dealers.

Hyundai proves itself to be a serious player in the industry, zooming to the fringe of competition. Along with the serious commitment to deliver quality innovations to humanity, Hyundai ensures to leave a big mark around the globe. Hyundai's vice president for brand strategy, Mr. Brandon Yea, said it well, "Hyundai is a fast-rising star."

ADVT

ACPACI & PICPA Commerce & Industry Sector Joint Annual Convention

Messages

Warmest greetings to the officers and members of the Association of Certified Public Accountants in Commerce and Industry (ACPACI) and PICPA Commerce and Industry Sector as you hold your 4th Joint Annual Convention.

I laud your firm commitment to excellence and global competitiveness. I am particularly hearted by your efforts to advance your profession while serving the best interests of your members.

This convention should be an opportunity for you to address critical issues and concerns confronting your organization. This is also your chance to share and exchange valuable knowledge to improve your competency and to strengthen your position in the corporate world.

I hope that you will continue to support our national agenda so that we can beat the odds, achieve greater stability and progress, and build a stronger Philippines that is responsive to the demands and challenges of the 21th century.

May you have a successful convention. Mabuhay kayong lahat!

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

To the Officers and Members of the PICPA Commerce and Industry Sector and the Association of Certified Public Accountants in Commerce and Industry - Welcome to the Summer Capital of the Philippines where you will rest your weary and tired bones from the usual rat race of the world of private corporate governance. You are here to impart current knowledge and know how from your vast experiences and to learn from your other colleagues in the accounting profession their applicability in the private world of corporate governance. In this forum your professionalism will be rekindled with the thoughts that you are willing partners in moving the country forward.

Your theme "Grooming the CFO's of Tomorrow" show the high level of professionalism that you put in training CFO's as responsible successors in the corporate world. CPA's no doubt have a high impact on the credibility and viability of the nation. You are the guardians of right information on financial matters affecting the country in general and the private corporations in particular. Your are our indispensable partners in advancing the nation to progress.

You are here to enjoy and renew friendship with your colleagues in the profession, compare notes and re-establish links for better net working. Make the most of the situation because as in any profession there are new things to be learned and better techniques to be used.

(Sgd.) MAURICIO G. DOMOGAN
Representative
Lone District, Baguio City

I am pleased to offer my sincerest best whishes to the Association of CPAs in Commerce and Industry (ACPACI) and the PICPA Commerce and Industry Sector on the occasion of your 4th Joint Annual Convention.

We at the Professional Regulation Commission are proud to witness events such as these, which offer opportunities for fostering fellowship among Certified Public Accountants as well as a chance to expand their knowledge in the arena of the corporate world. The services of CPAs help oil the engines of commerce and industry as well as government. Through their meticulous attention to the business operations of institutions, corporations and government entities, they make it possible to establish a climate of honesty and transparency. These two conditions are essential to the economic growth and progress especially in our country.

We note with interest the theme of the Convention, "Grooming the CFOs of Tomorrow". It is encouraging to us to see the experienced CPAs of your organization passing on their precious knowledge and expertise to a rising generation of CPAs. It is a sign of the vision of the PICPA Commerce and Industry Sector and ACPACI that it is making this investment in their profession's future in the corporate world. We enjoin all CPAs in the commerce and industry sector to avail themselves of the learning opportunities this event provides to them, We feel confident that this convention has all the hallmarks of another successful venture for PICPA and ACPACI. Best wishes again to all your members on your annual convention.

(Sgd.) LEONOR TRIPON-ROSERO
Chairperson
Professional Regulation Commission (PRC)

In behalf of the Board of Accountancy, I would like to convey our warmest greetings and commendations to the organizers and participants of the 4th Joint Annual Convention of the PICPA Commerce and Industry Sector and the Association of Certified Public Accountants in Commerce and Industry (ACPACI) to be held on September 15-17, 2006.

Your conference theme "Grooming the CFOs of Tomorrow" is indeed very appropriate and timely. In this day and age, the world is no longer what it used to be. With the advent of the New Economy, there are higher demands for efficiency, effectiveness and competitiveness. With barrier-free business and state of the art communication as pillars of globalization, the pace of change has never been this fast. This current economic development affecting the financial and corporate world calls for an accounting profession that is capable to respond to the needs of the times. As CPAs with a mission - that of being the business world's most trusted advisors, it becomes necessary for all of us to be professionally competent. Moreover, we must continue to pursue what is right with compassion and dedication, strong sense of morality, independence and integrity. As wave after wave of advancements come our way, we must learn to ride at the crest and not at the bottom. Mastery over modernization is the only way we could stay afloat and achieve the extraordinary. This gathering serves as a good venue for addressing such concerns.

Please accept my best wishes for a fruitful and successful convention.

(Sgd.) EUGENE T. MATEO
Chairman
Board of Accountancy (BOA)

It is my pleasure to welcome all the delegates to our 4th ACPACI and PICPA Commerce & Industry Sector joint convention here in Baguio.

This year's convention ACPACI theme, "Grooming the CFOs of Tomorrow", is aptly suited to our evolving role as corporate stewards, which has changed dramatically over the past several years. Our role has become more strategic and more visible to CEOs and stakeholders alike, particularly on the aspect of making long term plans and more informed decisions for our respective companies.

It is therefore hoped that this year's convention will further enhance our leadership and communication skills needed to take on new challenges as we reach new heights of our accounting profession.

Mabuhay and God bless!

(Sgd.) LIZA S. GLODOVIZA
2006 ACPACI President

Grooming the CFOs of Tomorrow

This year's theme "Grooming the CFOs of Tomorrow" is not all about empowering finance executives with collective knowledge and expertise. It also puts together the Character and Vision of the dynamic financial executive who can portray excellent personal chemistry with the CEO.

CEOs look for a CFO with strategic vision, good communication skills, and a broad business background that includes operating experience. Some CEOs are demanding a lot from their CFOs, more than financial acumen. These days, CEOs want a CFO who can fill a multitude of roles: confident, champion, communicator, creator of value.

As Gary DiCamillo, CEO of Polaroid Corp., the $1.8 billion imaging company, says: A CFO must be a navigator of the business, not just a custodian. "He or she must help the CEO " anticipate the icebergs, and steer clear."

Profile of ACPACI

IN MARCH 1973, FIFTEEN INDIVIDUALS SOUGHT TO create an institutional forum focused in the pursuit of common professional interest to public accountants. To address a common goal, they established the Association of Certified Public Accountants in Commerce and Industry (ACPACI) with the founding members as the first set of directors and officers.

Through the years, membership increased to about two hundred seventy four (274) committed members composed of Comptrollers, Finance Officers and other executives affiliated with top corporations. Today, ACPACI has become a truly cohesive group of professionals in the Commerce and Industry sector sworn to provide quality financial and allied services directed to attaining effective business decisions. It now maintains active participation with other sectoral organizations in the accounting profession -the Association of CPAs in Public Practice (ACPAP), the Government Association of CPAs (GACPA), the Association of CPAs in Education (ACPAE) - and is a dynamic member of the national organization of CPAs, the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

ACPACI seeks to upgrade professional development of CPAs in commerce and industry

In addition, it aims to:

Promote advancement of the accounting profession in the field of commerce and industry through research, seminars, discussions and dynamic exchange of knowledge amongst its members;

Assist members in addressing common problems in accounting, information systems, business finance, administration, and management;

Promote high professionalism and adherence to established ethical standards in the performance of services and responsibilities;

Maintain effective liaison with the members of other sectoral organizations;

Assist and cooperate with the Board of Accountancy in the attainment of its objectives.

Participative membership

ACPACI is a dynamic organization that keeps abreast with national developments taken from active participation and involvement by all the members. The monthly membership meetings sustain the Associations affairs and closer interaction to address and take a stand on relevant issues.

Where learning experience takes place

ACPACI is an institution that builds expertise and creates an environment of learning and fellowship. The annual convention provides a broader venue for interaction and freshens exchange of ideas on major developments in national and economic issues. It offers highly interesting sessions and current topics presented by experts and knowledgeable speakers. It also serves as a forum to make a firm stand on national and social issues through resolutions and position papers as approved by its members.

Continuing professional education program

ACPACI provides a good avenue for the continuing professional education of members through a series of seminars and lectures.

Social development and nation building

The Association undertakes social development projects in addition to the livelihood projects conducted to promote productivity and self-reliance for target beneficiaries. Through these projects, the Association recognizes the greater task ahead of us. Fulfillment of these responsibilities include pooling of our individual talents and resources towards the attainment of national growth and development.

2006 ACPACI BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON
Standing (from left): Julian Tecson, Lita Aguirre, Pacita Castro, Corazon Rey, Edna Constantino, Divina Tua, Cynthia Campos, Gregoria Guillermo, Josephine Magno, Bennette Consolacion; seated (from left): Ma. Corazon Bautista, Simeona De Guzman, Wilhelmina Cuico, Liza Glodoviza, Cecilia Patricio, Rebecca Arago.

Roster of speakers

Zenaida Cuison Maglaya
Undersec., Dept. of Trade & Industry

Floy Quintos
Stage & TV Director, GMA 7 Corp.

Bienvenido Policarpio
President & CEO, Dale Carnegie & Associates

Allan Mark Ancheta
Associate Accounts Director, IMS Health Phil., Inc.

Michael P. Goco
Finance Head, Gawad Kalinga

My warmest congratulations to the officers and members of the PICPA Commerce and Industry Sector and the Association of Certified Public Accountants in Commerce & Industry (ACPACI) for the successful holding of their 4th Joint 2006 Annual Convention on September 15-17, 2006 at the Baguio Country Club, Baguio City.

Your theme for this year's convention, "Grooming the CFOs of Tomorrow", manifests your commitment to prepare the CPA for the greater responsibility that he will assume, as well as to prepare him for the greater expectations and demands from him as CFO. The totally new environment that he is part of has dramatically changed. These changes in business and economic practices redefined and expanded his role as CFO. More is now expected from him. Thus, he should not let himself stuck with the old and even with the current rules. He has to continuously re-engineer his ways, reinvent himself and adopt new paradigms, and continue his quest for quality and excellence, as well.

Again, congratulations to the CPAs in Commerce & Industry Sector as you once again convene to forge links and discuss fresh insights in your chosen field.

(Sgd.) MANUEL M. PASCUAL
PICPA National President

Standing (from left): Donato Danao, assistant treasurer and regional director for Metro Manila; Dominador Barrion, regional director for Southern Luzon; Redentor Roque, regional director for Central Luzon; Amor Palma, regional director for Northern Mindanao; Ma. Asuncion Golez, regional director for Western Visayas; Ricardo Danlag, VP for education and regional director for Eastern Visayas; Jaime Naranjo, VP for government and sectoral director for government; Rodelio Acosta, regional director for Metro Manila; Albert Paul Uy, regional director for Metro Manila; seating (from left): Nelia Tumarao, assistant secretary and regional director for Southern Mindanao; Melita Estrellado, regional director for Bicol; Edna Barrera, regional director for Southern Luzon; Antonio Tecson, treasurer and chair of Metro Manila; Manuel Pascual, national president and regional director for Eastern Visayas; Andres Cabuyadao, EVP and regional director for Northern Luzon; Lorenda Delmo, regional director for Southern Mindanao; Estrella Andres, regional director for Western Visayas; Josefe Sorrera-Ty, VP for public practice and regional director for Northern Mindanao.

About the Philippine Institute of CPAs

The Institute was founded in November 1929 by a group of illustrious pioneers in the accounting profession: Enrique Caguiat, Santiago de la Cruz, Francisco Dalupan, Kaime Hernandez, Felipe Ollada, Ramon del Rosario, Antonio Sanchez, Jose Torres, Artemio Tulio, Clemente Uson and Jesus Zulueta.

The group set forth the following objectives:

- To promote and maintain high professional and ethical standards among accountants;
- To advance the science of accounting;
- To develop and improve accountancy education;
- To encourage cordial relations among accountants; and
- To protect the Certificate of Certified Public Accountant granted by the Republic of the Philippines.

William W. Larkin, holder of CPA Certificate No 1, was its first president.

After having complied with the requirements for accreditation under Presidential Decree No. 223, PICPA was awarded Certificate of Accreditation No. 6 on 02 October 1973, by then Chairman Eric Nubla of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC).

This distinction, which recognized the Institute as the bonafide professional organization of CPAs, likewise gave PICPA the responsibility of setting into motion a scheme for the integration of all CPAs in the country.

Integration of the Accountancy Profession was carried out under PRC Resolution No. 106 dated 12 July 1984, as amended by Resolution No. 142 dated 04 March 1987.

With the election on 02 December 1988 of the new set of PICPA Board of Directors and Officers under the revised by-Laws of PICPA, all the conditions of integration were fulfilled and on 06 January 1989, PRC Commissioner Julio Francia declared that the "integration is now accomplished".

The Institution performs its avowed mission - that of serving of accountancy - through a set of social and technical services to its members.

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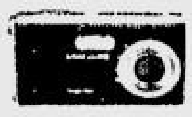
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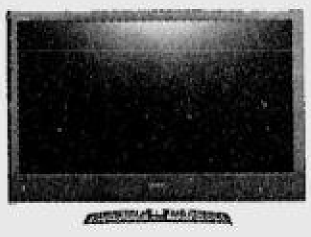

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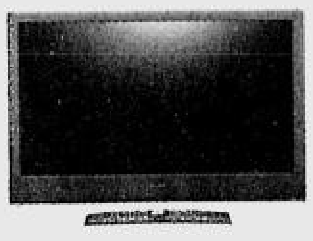

SONY KLV46S200A 46" LCD
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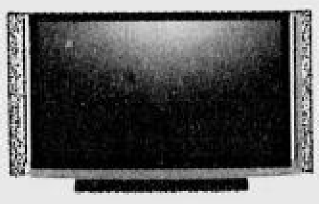
Tru Surround XT / BBE Digital
PIP Picture Freeze / HDMI / PC Input
P259,990.00



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ACPACI Mission Statement

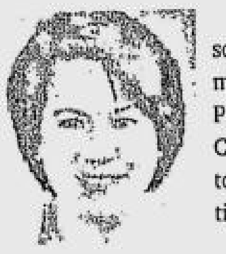
We are a cohesive group of Certified Public Accountants belonging to the commerce and industry sector. We are sworn to provide quality professional, financial services directed to the attainment of sound and effective business decisions.

We are a dynamic organization of individuals -
- that keeps abreast of developments in accountancy.
- that shares knowledge, skills and benefits with interested parties.
- that seeks the common good for the welfare of all.

We are an institution that builds expertise.
We will -
- attract, develop, and retain high-potential CPAs
- provide continuing education programs for the members.
- create an environment of learning, social relevance and fellowship.

We will fulfill our responsibilities as dedicated professionals; as good citizens playing active roles in national issues and promoting harmony in the community.

Messages



Congratulations to the Association of CPAs in Commerce and Industry and the Philippine Institute of CPAs - Commerce and Industry Sector on its 4th Joint Convention.

In today's global volatility and professional complexity, the functions of the CFO has morphed and evolved from financial consultant and custodian of financial information to the CEOs strategic partner in driving the business forward. This role has become even more vital with the emergence of various government requirements on corporate governance and transparency.

This transition has placed great demands in the CFO professionally, socially and personally. The CFO's professional development has always been the major agenda of the organization and the Commerce and Industry Sector of PICPA.

ACPACI has seen it befitting to have this year's convention theme focus on the personal and social development of the CFO.

We hope that this year's convention will not only give us the needed break from the rigors of our jobs but also give us the opportunity to develop ourselves socially and personally, as well as professionally.

(Sgd.) MA. OPHELIA Ll. CAMINA
Chairperson, Commerce & Industry Sector

I extend my heartfelt greetings to the officers and members of ACPACI my home sector, on the occasion of its Annual National Convention. This is the opportune time to renew our basic resolve to carry on with the tradition of commitment to the ideals of PICPA in general and of ACPACI in particular.

Let this year's theme "Grooming the CFOs of Tomorrow" remind us that the learning process in our organization never ends. It is a continuous process. With the advent of modern technologies, we have to keep ourselves abreast of the rapid changes if we are to secure our vital positions in the corporate world. We must constantly "Quest for Quality and Excellence" in all our actions.

Once again, my warmest congratulations to all.

(Sgd.) JOSEFINA G. CHUA
Vice President, Commerce & Industry Sector

It is with esteem pride and excitement that I welcome all the delegates and guests to this 4th Joint Annual Convention of PICPA-Commerce and Industry Sector and the Association of CPAs in Commerce and Industry (ACPACI) in the scenic and beautiful Baguio City. This gathering is again a wonderful opportunity for all of us to rekindle our commitment and dedication, through interaction, in seeking ways for the advancement of our career as accounting professionals and Filipino citizens.

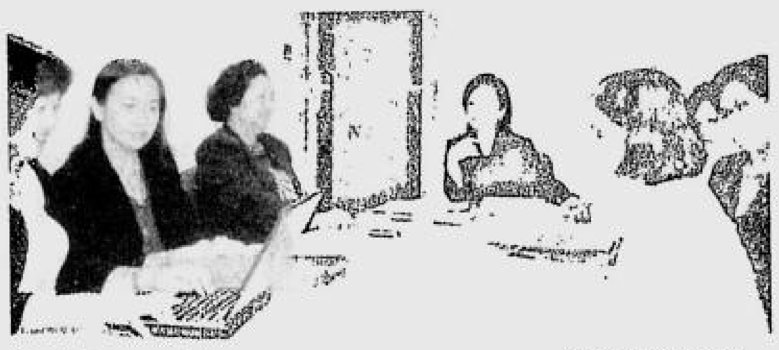
With the theme "Grooming the CFO's of Tomorrow" our technical sessions were designed to create awareness that our vital role as business leaders challenge us not only to be effective communicators and to possess good public relations but also to inculcate and adopt corporate social responsibility. Our fellowship and sports activities will surely provide everyone the respite and fun that will make this convention a memorable one.

It is with fervent hope that after this joint convention, all of us will bring home with us the change that will lead us to become a better professional.

Best wishes for a fruitful and successful convention!

(Sgd.) ROSE MARIE P. DE LEMOS
Chairperson
2006 Annual Convention

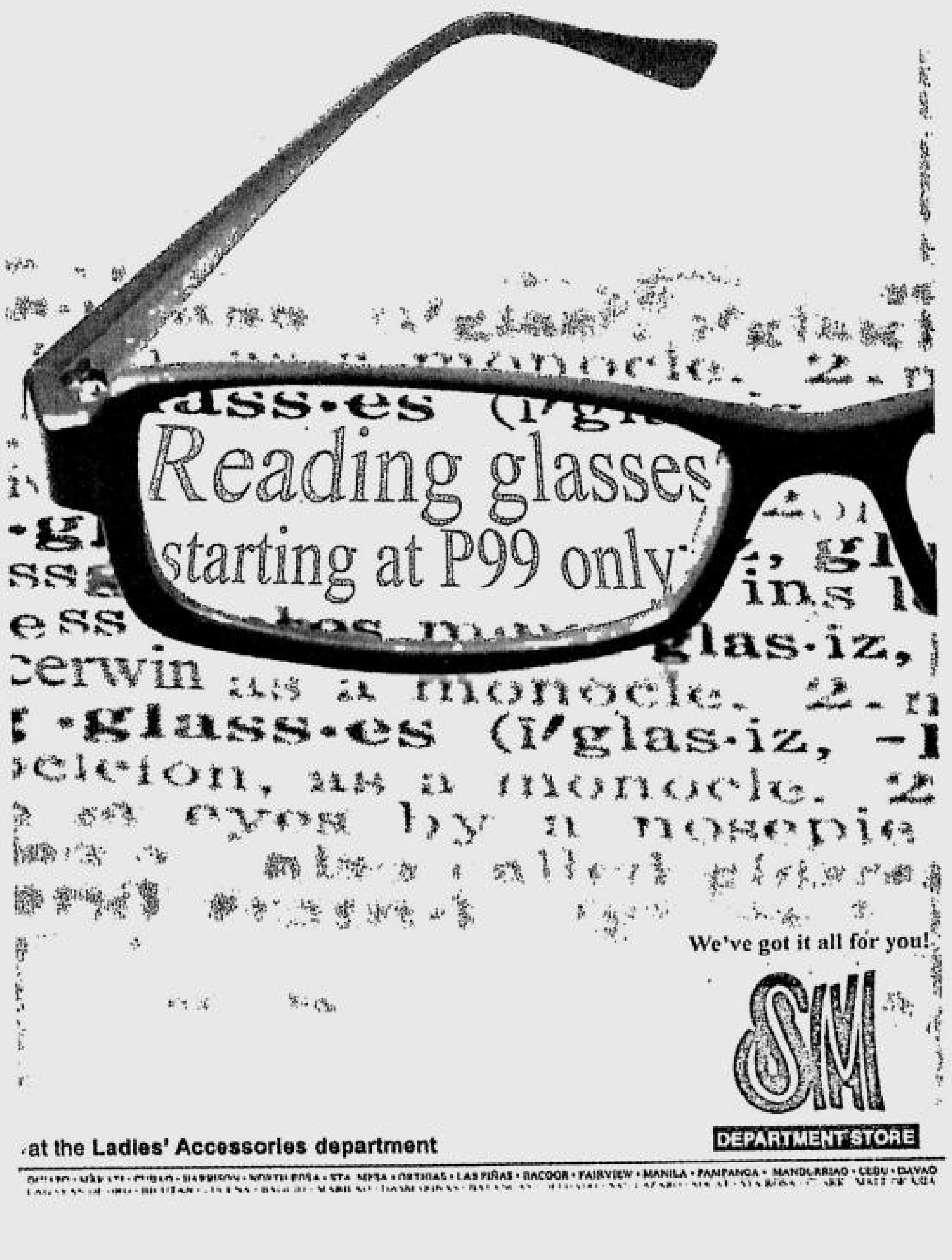
ACPACI in action



ACPACI SCHOLARS FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2006-2007
Maria Jonia V. Cerbas, Kareen Faith C. Castro, Geron A. Dante, Jay M. Duhaylongsod, Ernest Fortune S. Jose, Angelo S. Lasala, Princess B. Masaoay, Abelardo T. Quinto Jr., Michelle D. Reyes, Irish O. Samayang, Jade V. Trinidad, Hanna May T. Ubaldo, Rey Evince R. Valencia, John Bryan G. Vibal and Antolin C. Villanueva III. Seated are Liza Glodoviza, ACPACI president; Ophie Camina, PICPA commerce and industry sector chairperson; Dr. Evangeline de Jesus, PUP Dean of Office for Scholarship and Financial Assistance; Winnie Cuico, ACPACI executive director

4TH Joint Annual Convention
PICPA Commerce & Industry Sector & ACPACI
September 15-17, 2006, Baguio Country Club

TIME	DAY 1 Sept. 15	DAY 2 Sept. 16	DAY 3 Sept. 17
5:00 am	DEPARTURE FROM MANILA OF BUS Assembly place: SM City North Edsa, Parking Area		
7:00 am		BREAKFAST Baguio Country Club	BREAKFAST Baguio Country Club
9:00 am		TECHNICAL SESSION 2 "Grooming the CFO on Communication Skills" Speaker: Mr. Bienvenido Policarpio President & CEO, Dale Carnegie & Associates	
10:30 am	REGISTRATION Baguio Country Club	TECHNICAL SESSION 3 "Grooming the CFO on Leader Skills" Speaker: Mr. Allan Marx B. Ancheta, Associate Accounts Director, IMS Health Phil., Inc	DEPARTURE FROM BAGUIO OF BUS
12:00 nn	LUNCH Baguio Country Club	LUNCHEON MEETING "Grooming the CFO on Corporate Responsibility" Speaker: Mr. Michael P. Goco, Finance Head, Gawad Kalinga	
1:30 pm	OPENING PLENARY SESSION "Grooming the CFOs of Tomorrow" Speaker: Hon. Zenaida C. Maglaya, Undersec., Dept. of Trade & Industry	CLOSING PLENARY SESSION	
3:00 pm	TECHNICAL SESSION 1 "Grooming the CFO on Public Relations" Speaker: Mr. Floy Quintos, Stage & TV Director, GMA 7 Corp.	FREE TIME	
5:00 pm	Free Time/Bowling Tournament	Anticipated Mass at BCC	
7:00 pm	Fellowship / Dinner Theme: Fitness & Sports	Fellowship / Dinner "A Night of Singing & Dancing"	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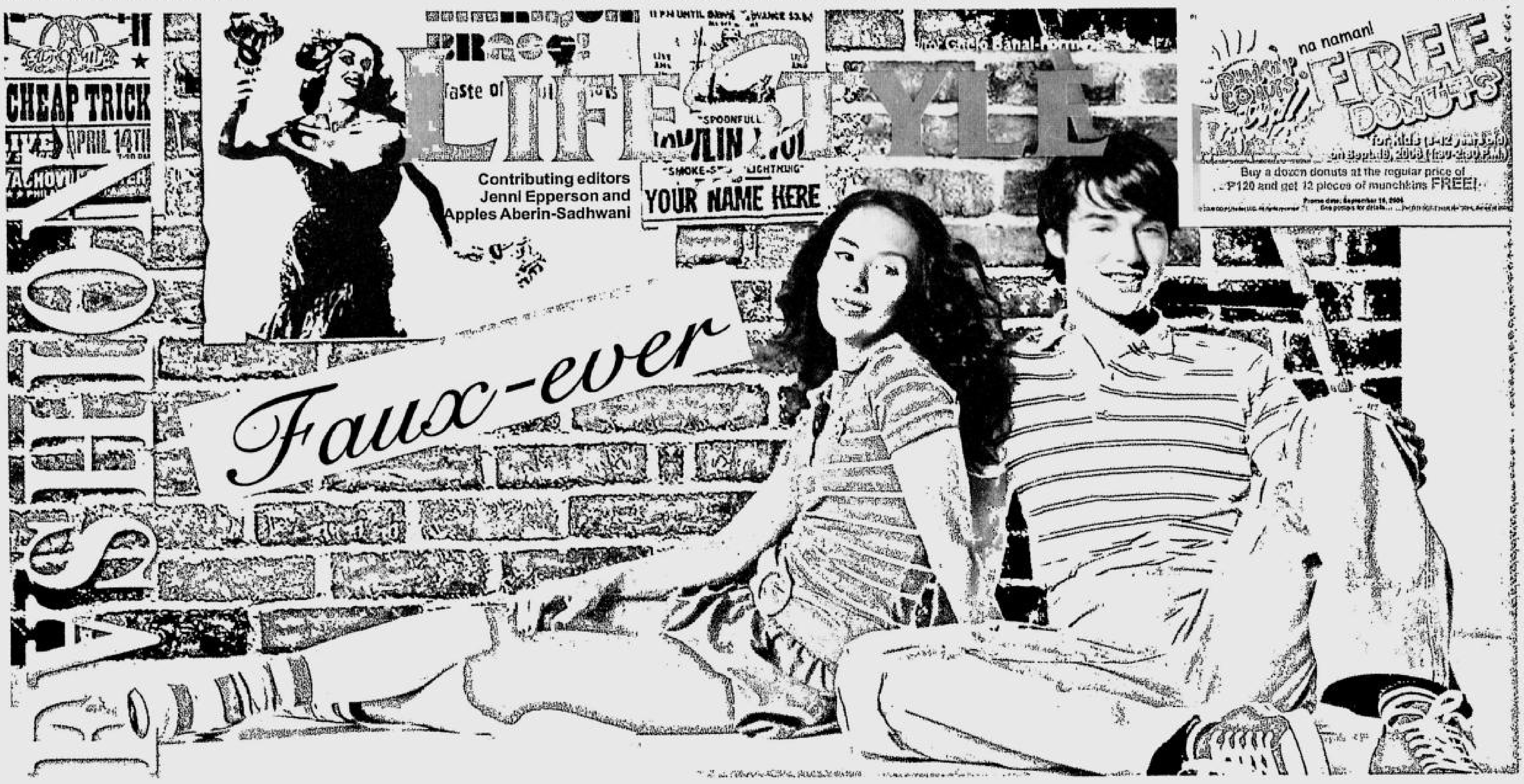
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Faux-ever

Contributing editors
Jenni Epperson and
Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

Country club crew

Get the revitalized country club look with a twist of edgy joie de vivre form with polo pique from Folded and Hung

WE ALL REMEMBER the look: polo shirts, khakis and the ubiquitous espadrilles of yesteryear. We all wanted the look. We saw ourselves sashaying into the country club to talk about daddy's new horses and the latest golf carts.

Jenni Epperson

Fashion is not about resurrection; it's about revitalization and revival. It's about introducing a new dash or a new twist to something that has been there all along.

We've all heard the fashion industry-coined term "Modern Preppy"; the look has been adopted by celebrities all over the world and the younger golf enthusiasts are bringing it back (sans the horrible plaid pants of the '80s golf stars!)

Runways and apparel houses all over Europe and America are bringing back the classic preppy look, but FH gives this look an eclectic and sexier look by making the polo shirt fit perfectly.

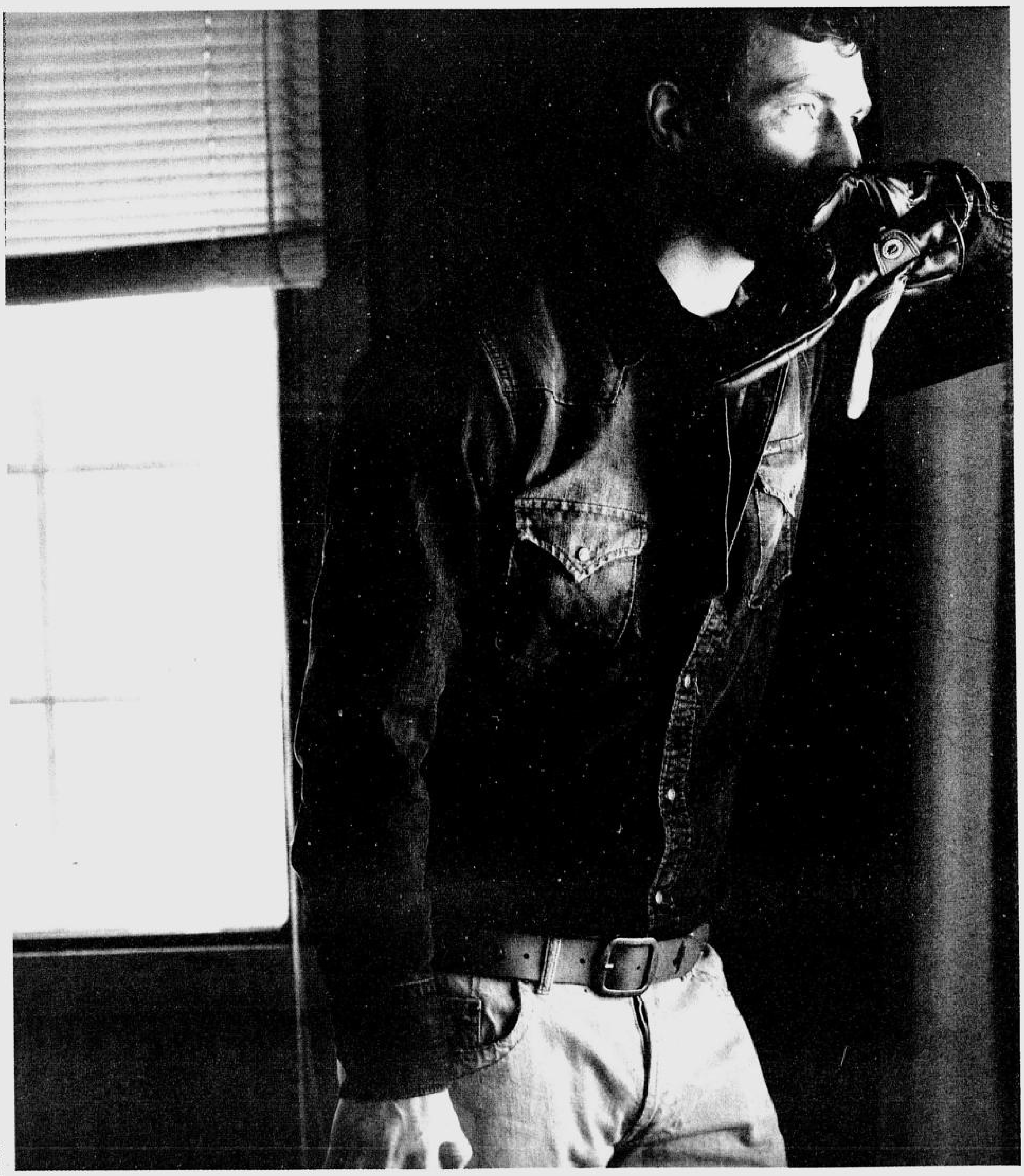
The look is now fit-to-a-tee rather than bulky and loose. (Don't you all remember the ever-present long-back polo shirt that hung all the way to one's knees?) FH is doing away with the bigger-is-better preppy look by paying homage to the fit of the '70s.

Think oh-so-sexy Ashton Kutcher of "That 70s Show."

Thing is, do we want to look like a Tiger Woods clone? A country club chic "Stepford Wife?" Of course not! FH es-

COUNTRY/C2

FIT to a tee



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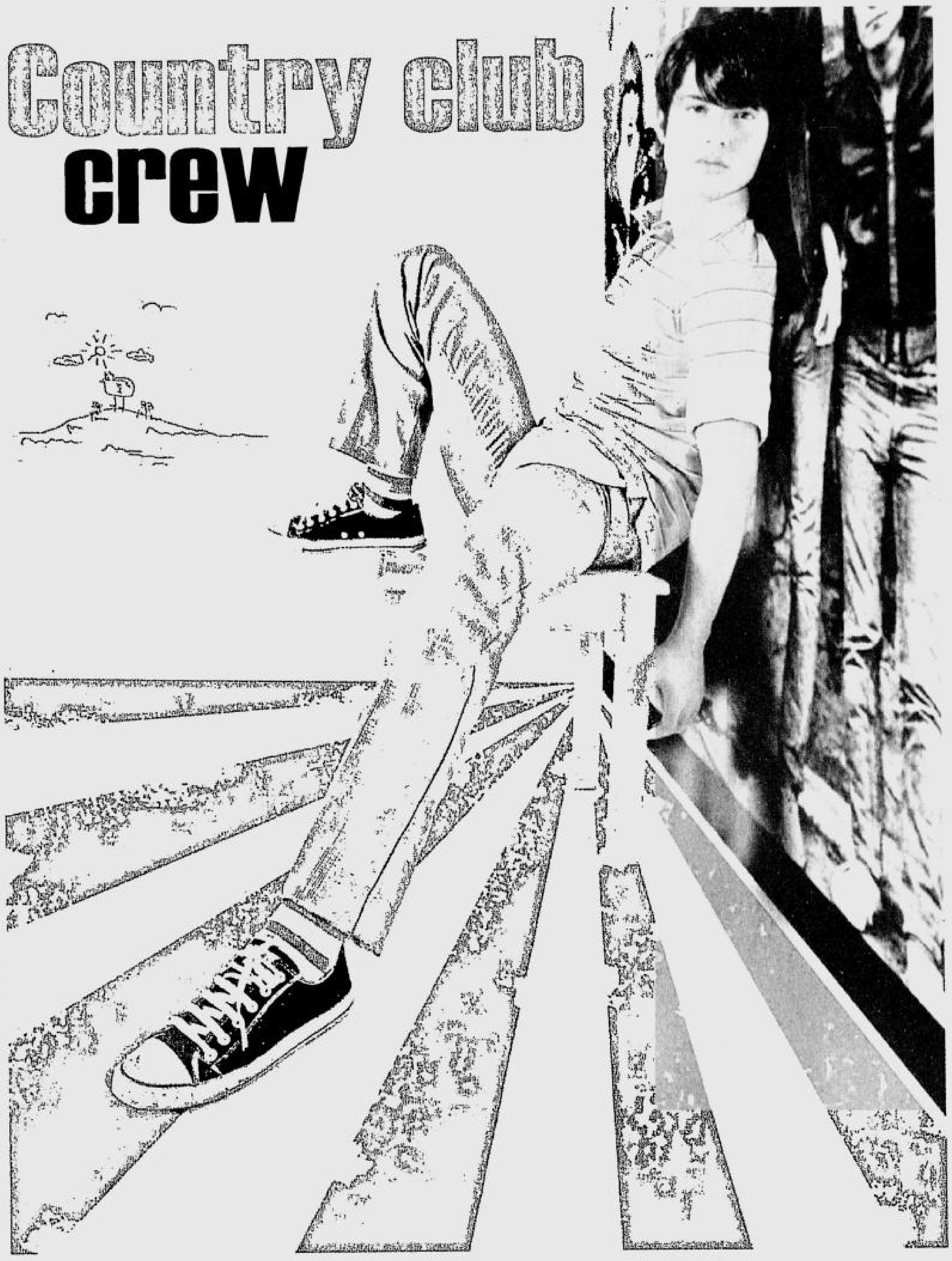
Country club crew



STRIPED tease

From page C1

pouses self-expression, and this same philosophy applies to the seemingly mundane preppy look.

"FH Preppy is all about expressing your personal fashion style that reflects your diverse and free-ranging fashion sense," according to its publicity material.

FH Polo Shirts, in more colors than your eye shadow kit, go well with anything and everything you wear. Match them up and mix them around with jeans, khakis, white pants, Bermuda shorts, bubble skirts and leggings to get an edgier look.

Or go modern urban streetwear by layering them with basic round-neck tees or striped shirts.

Throw in a string of oversized pearls and be the coolest preppy at your *barkada's* weekend lunch.

Polo Shirts are so versatile that you can switch from a trendy work look (paired with rolled-up striped long-sleeved shirts, casual plaid slim-fit pants and a blazer or coat) to a cool night out with friends (sexy capris and high heels, faux pearl necklace and matching bracelets).

Skinny polo shirts like these make country-club couture a look that you and I can pull off—without the club membership price.

Email the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

FAIRWAY fashion

Photography Ronnie Salvacion
Clothes by Folded and Hung
Styling Maureen Disini
Makeup Gigi Gonzalez-Uson
for Shu Uemura
Hair Janet de Rama for Khiels
Models Sandro Takeo and Jackie Mitchel
Shoes Schu

LAYER it on

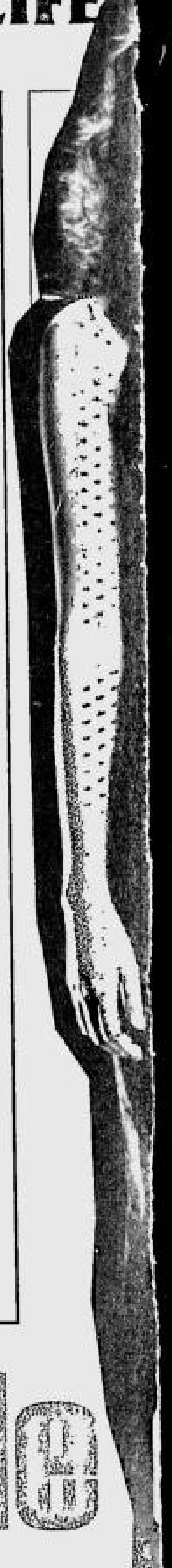
MALDITA red tube top with sash, about P900

Trim your waist

The classic female form has been celebrated throughout history. This is probably why women once took such great pains to create exaggerated hourglass shapes (18-inch girths were *de rigueur!*) with the use of constricting corsets. Thankfully, standards are not as rigid nowadays. You can actually look the way you want to look, be it a bombshell or a tomboy.

Should you decide to emphasize your femininity, you can create a shapelier silhouette with the use of a waist-cinching belt and a bit of fullness on the hip area. Corset tops, deep V-necks and wrap tops and dresses are also good options when trying to cinch the waist and create the illusion of curves.

Meanwhile, it's best to avoid baggy-looking sacks, shift dresses and double-breasted jackets.



APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

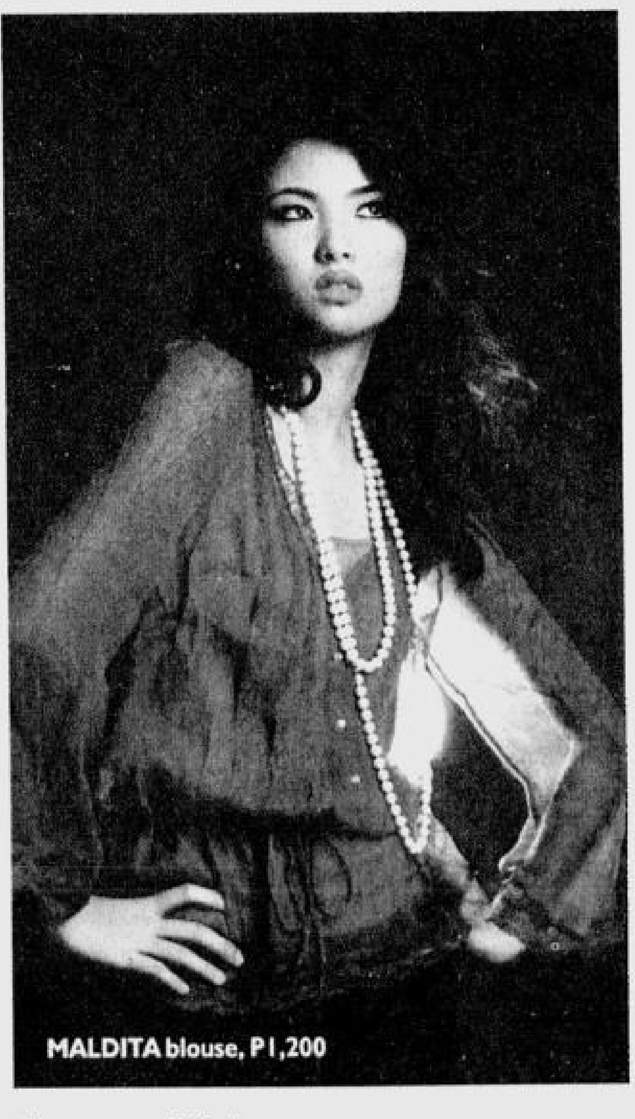
Photography
Ocs Alvarez
Styling Donna Cuna-Pita
Hair and makeup
Gela Laurel
for Lancôme
Model Ana
Sideco/PMAP

Style

FACE IT. MOST OF YOU (well, me included!) will never be as Photoshop-perfect as Giselle, Kate or Daria. These goddesses are always so well put-together and fashion-savvy that sometimes, we incorrectly believe that stylishness is a feat way beyond our grasp.

Don't despair! The good news is that looking stylish is not just about knowing and wearing the latest trends and must-have items. What's more, it's not about being supermodel-gorgeous.

It's actually about knowing what suits you, your personality and your body type best. It's being honest and accepting the fact that you have certain body parts that are not that great-looking, and sometimes just plain unsightly, and eventually learning how to work



MALDITA blouse, P1,200

Conceal big arms

Big bat-wing arms can be the bane of one's fashionable existence. The retail market is replete with sleeveless tops and dresses but sorely lacking in frump-free clothing for women with, well, far-from dainty limbs.

If you suffer from Queen Latifah-like arms, take heart in the fact that you don't have to cover up completely and look like some dowager duchess or magnificent matron. Your best bet would be to don a sheer long-sleeved top that allows you to flash a filtered but still sexy view of skin while keeping the outline of your arms blurred.

Tops or dresses with fluted or trumpet sleeves or three-fourths sleeves are also good options. In the meantime, it's best to avoid cap sleeves, spaghetti straps and puff sleeves.

MALD

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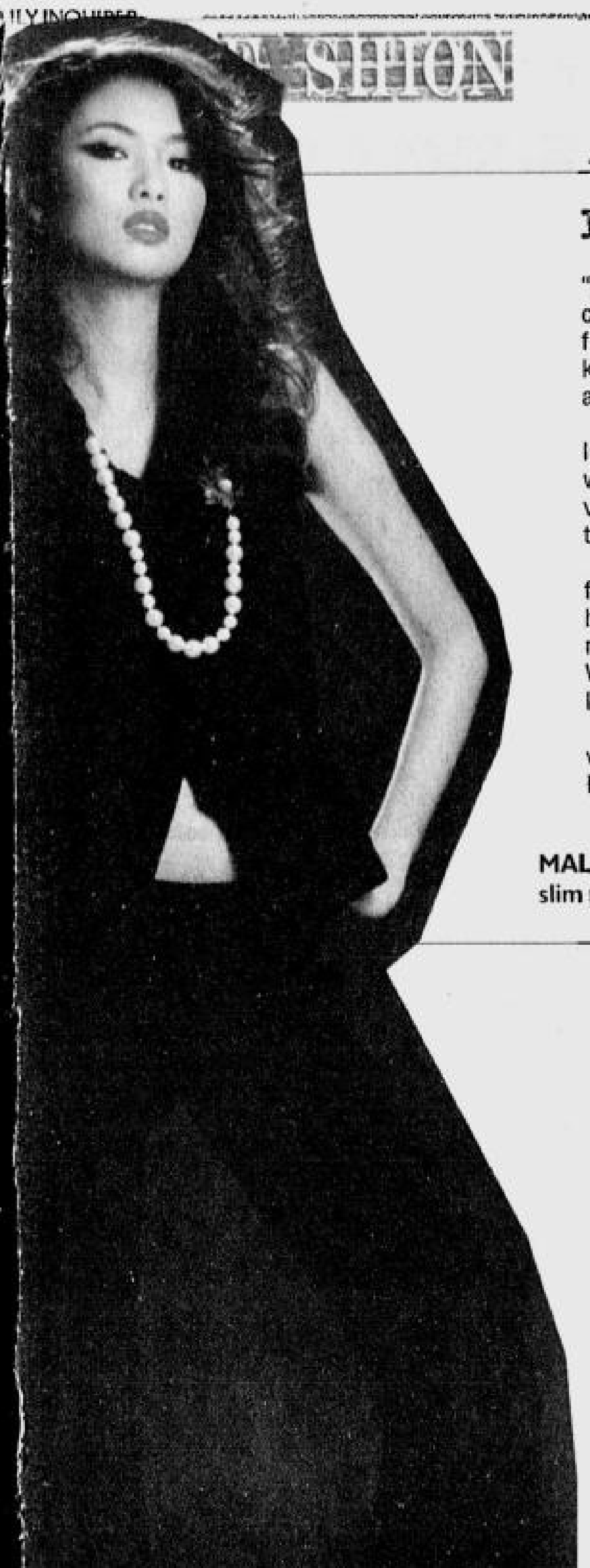

Look taller and leaner

"Desperate Housewives'" Eva Longoria is always clad in clothing and footwear that make her 5'2" frame look longer and leaner. The pint-sized star knows that she can easily look taller by following a few sensible rules.

You can also elongate your petite frame by following these simple tips. First, streamline by wearing clothing that's close to the body. Avoid voluminous pieces that will overwhelm, rather than complement.

Next, wear monochromatic colors or one color from head to toe. A body skimming, dark-colored halter-top and pants combo, for example, can make you look leaner while camouflaging flaws. Wearing contrasting colors or a wide belt will only cut you in half and make you seem shorter.

Lastly, wear high heels. Platform shoes and wedges are all the rage, so you can go as sky-high as you want to.

MALDITA halter top, about P900, slim pants, P1,200, and necklace, P600

Hide hefty hips

Are you pear-shaped like most women? If so, your goal is to make your hips look smaller to create a better body proportion.

You can do this several ways. First consider the length of your top. A tunic top or wrap dress that skims over the widest part of your hips can easily disguise hefty hips.

Next, consider your choice of color or print. Dark colors like black or navy will make you look slimmer, while small to moderately sized prints can diffuse your wide hip area by making eyes move around instead of focusing on one body part.

Soft but not clingy fabrics can also create a willowy effect, and A-line silhouettes, as opposed to pencil-cut bottoms, can better serve your purpose.

ILAYA Couture wrap top, P1,800; Wildflower leggings, P450, from The Ramp

quest

Looking stylish is about knowing what suits you, your personality and your body type best

around these imperfections.

Style is all about dressing to show off what you love about your body and disguising what you hate about it. And no, style is not something you're born with. It's something that you can learn.

To guide you on your journey to style perfection, here are some tips to help you disguise those not-so-perfect body parts.

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

ITA ruffled blouse, P900

fuller chest

need a full chest to look alluring. Clothes usually on flat-chested women, anyway. That's why most els are bereft of major breasts.

u're the type who's dreamt of surgery all your ut are just too afraid or cash-strapped to do it, con on your lifesaver. Yes, you can create the illusion of bs with the use of a few items and stylish details. by finding the right bra. A maximizer should do the are padded so they give the illusion of bigger breasts. sure you choose a pair that does not look unnatural under a T-shirt or other form-fitting garments.

ck tops or dresses that have details like ruffles or the chest area. These add bulk and dimension ng style points. It's also good to remember that klines like halters and slash or Sabrina are more you. Scoop necklines are generally unflattering, as emphasize empty space.

show off other parts of your body like a sexy back ms, which are just as desirable as a full chest.

Shiok! II
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Just by joining this promo, previously registered participants of Year 2005's *Shiok! Singapore* will receive a unique souvenir item as an additional token of appreciation.

So visit your favorite travel agent and book your trip to Singapore now. See flyers or call Singapore Tourism Board Philippines at 81[illegible]-0946 for complete details.

Singapore Tourism Board

Our Events Calendar

September
[illegible] Asian Football Confederation U-17 Championships
4 - 30 Singapore Biennale 2006
6 - 10 World Food Fair 2006
7 - 10 Barclays Singapore Open
7 - 30 Forbidden City: Portrait of an Empress
8 Westlife Face to Face Asian Tour
8 - 17 Festival Mexicano 2006
8 - 28 World Press Photo Exhibition
14 - 30 DALI in Singapore
15 - 17 Cyberathlete Professional League Singapore 2006
20 - 30 Philips Championship NBL
21 - 30 Deepavali Festival of Lights
22 - 30 Hari Raya Light-Up Celebration
23 - 30 Mid Autumn Festival
28 - 30 ARTSingapore 2006
30 The Art of Cartier

October
1 Forbidden City: Portrait of an Empress
1 - 2 ARTSingapore 2006
1 - 14 DALI in Singapore
1 - 15 Mid-Autumn Festival
1 - 17 The Art of Cartier
1 - 29 Deepavali (Festival of Lights)
1 - 29 Philips Championship NBL
1 - 31 Singapore Biennale 2006
1 - 31 Hari Raya Light-Up Celebration
7 - 8 Vienna Boys' Choir
13 - 15 House of Lange
13 - 31 Singapore JewelFest
15 Singapore International Watch Auction
19 - 20 Christie's Asian Art, Jewellery & Watches Autumn Auctions Exhibition
19 - 29 Jewellery Time
20 - 22 Sotheby's Exhibition & Auction of Southeast Asian Paintings
28 6th Global Chinese Music

November
1 - 9 Singapore JewelFest
1 - 12 Singapore Biennale 2006
3 - 19 Notre Dame de Paris
[illegible] 59th Singapore Cricket Club International Rugby Sevens Tournament 2006
12 - 17 Asian Poker Tour 2006
15 - [illegible] Lexus Cup 2006
16 - 25 Singapore Garden Festival

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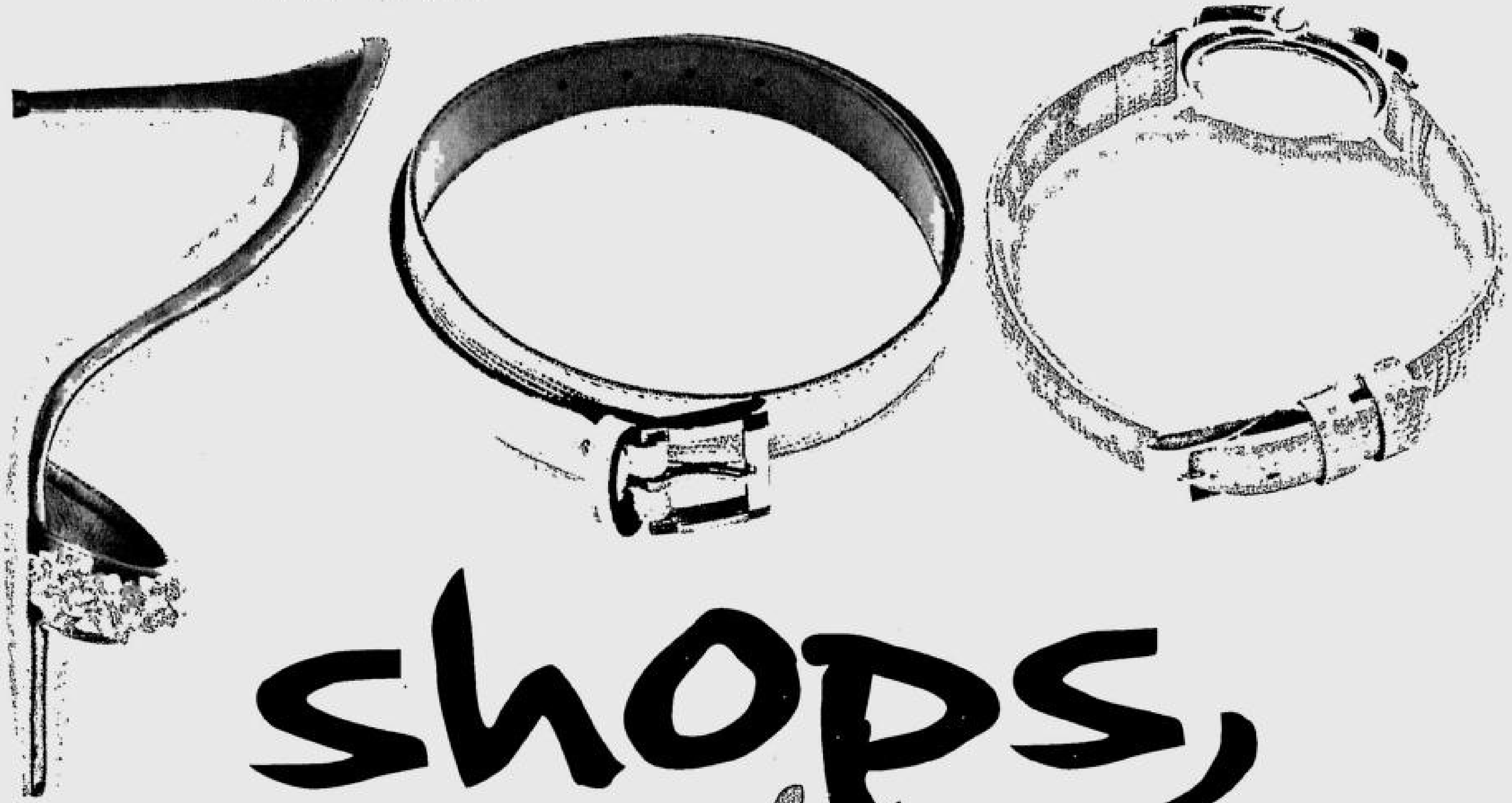

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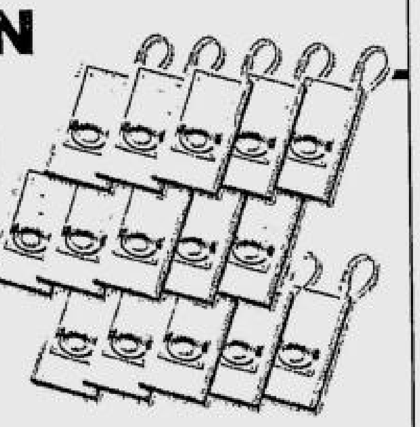

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LIVE AT SM MALL OF ASIA

September 15
Music Hall, 5 PM

NINA

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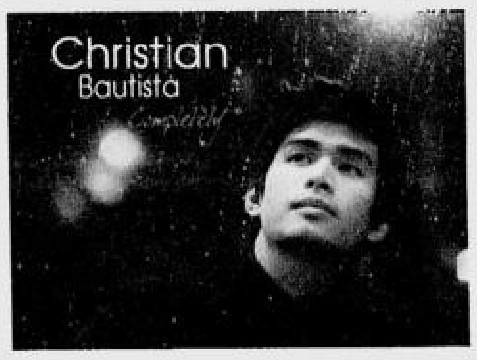
September 15
Music Hall, 6 PM

THE AKAFELLAS

Listen to the country's premiere popcapella group as they perform contemporary songs, all in a capella!



CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA WITH THE MANILA PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

September 16
Music Hall, 5 PM

Christian Bautista serenades at The Music Hall with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra!

SITTI

September 17
Music Hall, 5 PM

Feel the passion as Sitti sings live at The Music Hall!

September 17 ,
Music Hall 8 PM

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FASHION

LIFESTYLE

FASHION BUZZ

AUDREY Hepburn in a classic black pant

INQUIRER Fashion serves it hot, haute, hot!

The skinny on Gap

Gap brings back the classics by being innovative. Style icon Audrey Hepburn, in the classic dance sequence of "Funny Face," is back on the silver screen with Gap's new campaign that re-launches the perfect black pant. Technology has Audrey dancing in a Parisian café then jumping out to groove it to AC/DC's "Back in Black." The ad concludes with the tagline "It's Back—The Skinny Black Pant."

She's baaaack!

Sharon Stone stars in Badgley Mischka's new opulent fashion campaign, clad in "Deanna," a shirred black countessa gown; "Agatha," a black and amethyst scarf and ribbon gown; and "Au-

FASHION/ D4

WWW.BADGLEYMISCHKA.COM

SHARON Stone for Badgley Mischka

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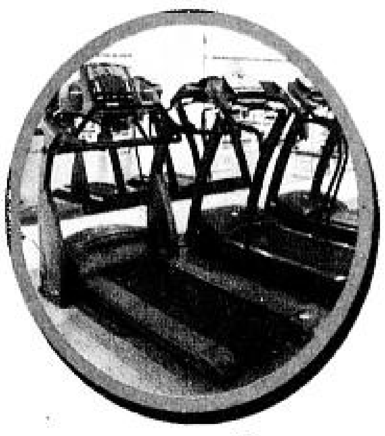
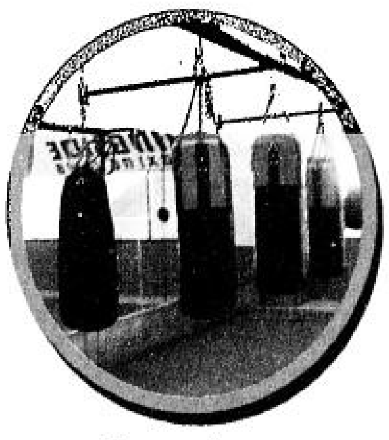
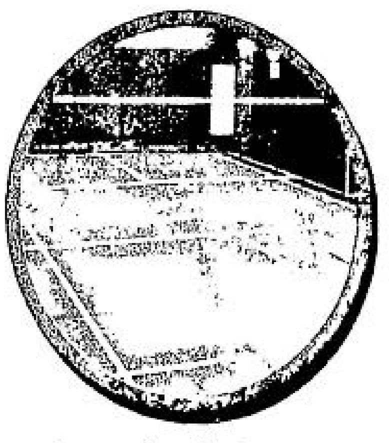


gym & body workshops

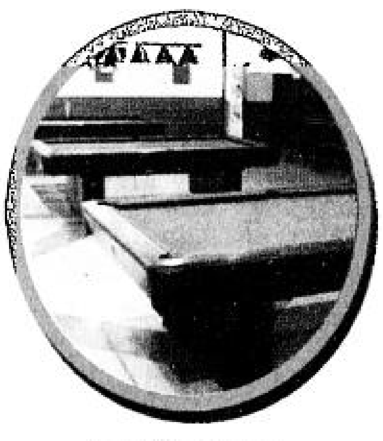


boxing club



badminton courts

basketball courts



billiards & table tennis

UPCOMING EVENTS:

SEPTEMBER 16 - THE CONGRESSMEN VS. OUR PARISH PRIESTS BASKETBALL CHALLENGE
SEPTEMBER 30 - GRAND CHEERING COMPETITION

MALL EVENTS THIS SEPTEMBER

STARMALL LAS PINAS

872-5249

Sept. 17, Latin Dance, Hi-Lo and Cardio Box Clinic, 2/L, 3pm
Sept. 23, Balagtasayawit, 2/L, 4pm
Sept. 24, Aero-Marathon, MySpa, 2/L, 1pm
Sept. 29, Knights of Columbus "See You in September" Ballroom Dance Concert, 2/L, 7pm
Sept. 30, Valbuena Cup 2006, Table Tennis, Mall Tour, 2/L, 10am
Mondays, Comedy Nights @ The Strip, 8pm
Wednesdays, Live Bands @ The Strip, 7pm
Fridays, Live Bands @ Mark's Bar, 9pm
Saturdays, Acoustic Nights @ The Strip, 7pm
Saturdays, Storytelling @ Books for Less, 2pm

STARMALL EDSA-SHAW

718-1886

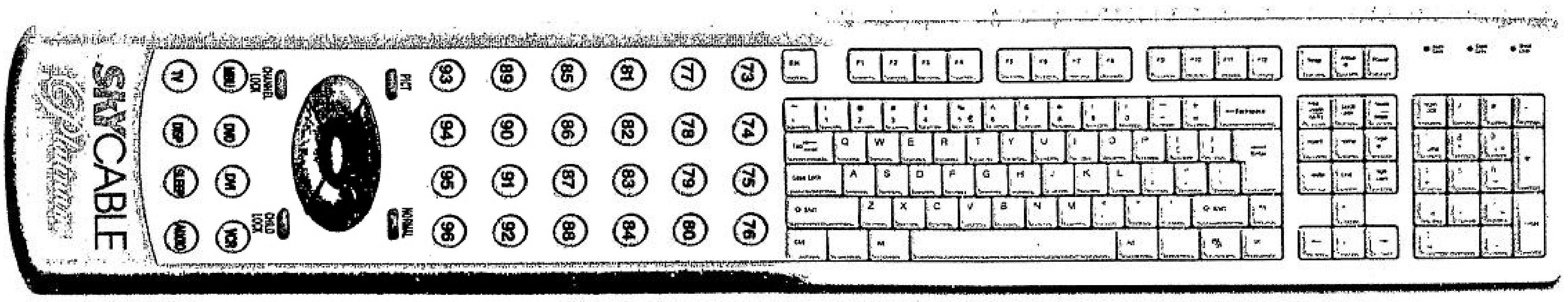
Sept. 16, Jennylyn Mercado, Album Tour, 2/L, 4pm
Sept. 17, Wally & Jose, Mall Tour, 2/L, 4pm
Sept. 21, Chef Caravan 2006, Semi-Finals, 2/L, 12nn
Sept. 23, Iwa Moto, Mall Tour, 2/L, 4pm
Sept. 24, QTV 11's Posh Kids, Mall Tour, 2/L, 4pm
Sept. 25, Rappenings, Grand Finals, 2/L, 4pm
Sept. 30, Phil. Dobermann Federation, All Breed Championship Dog Show, by: Pedigree, 2/L, 4pm
Mondays, Rappenings @ The Mall Eliminations, 2/L, 4pm
Tuesdays, Comedy Nights @ Cuba Libre, 9pm
Fridays & Saturdays, Live Bands @ Cuba Libre, 9pm
Sundays, Acoustic Nights @ Cuba Libre, 8pm

METROPOLIS STAR ALABANG

850-3845

Sept. 16, Basketball Challenge: Congressmen vs. Parish Priests, 3/L, 3pm
Sept. 16, Food Demo by: Spices & Foodmix House, 3/L, 2pm
Sept. 17, Marky Cielo, Mall Tour, 2/L, 4pm
Sept. 23, Martial Arts Demo, 3/L, 2pm
Sept. 24, Chef Caravan 2006, Grand Finals, 3/L, 12nn
Sept. 30, Grand Cheering Competition, 3/L, 3pm
Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays, Live Bands, 2/L, 8pm
Thursdays, Comedy Nights, 2/L, 8pm

starmall EDSA - SHAW
METROPOLIS ALABANG star
starmall LAS PINAS



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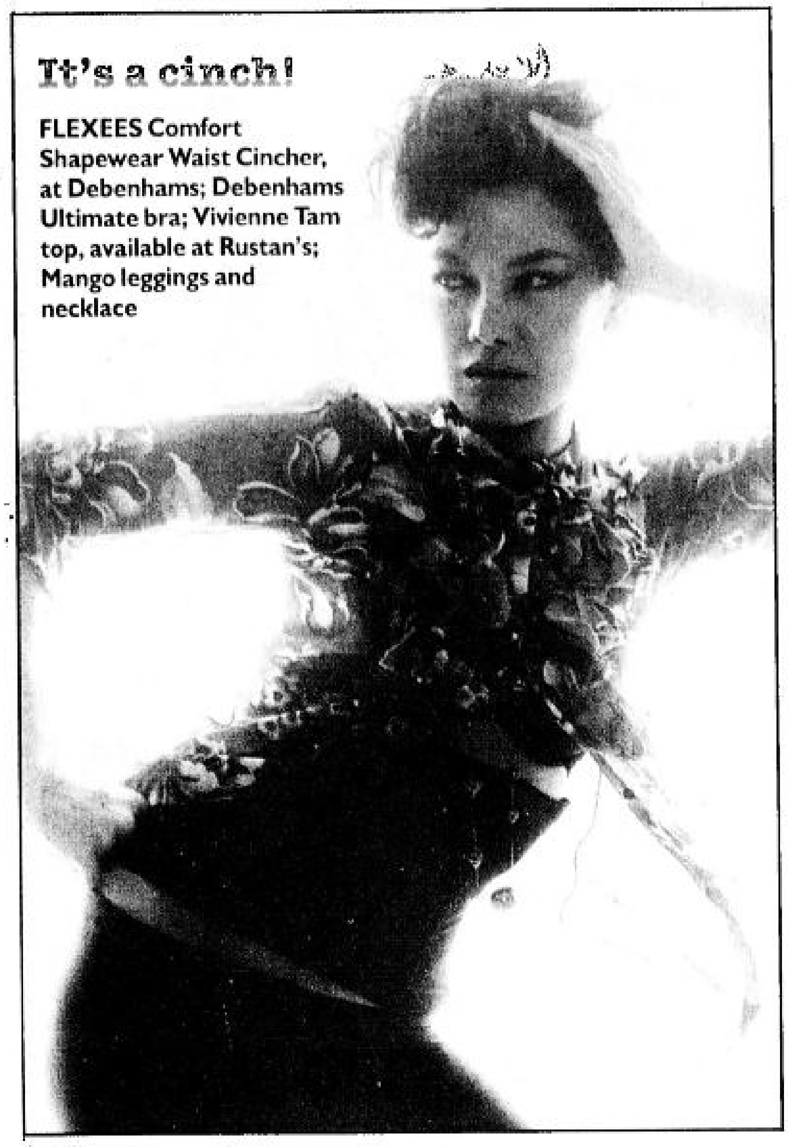
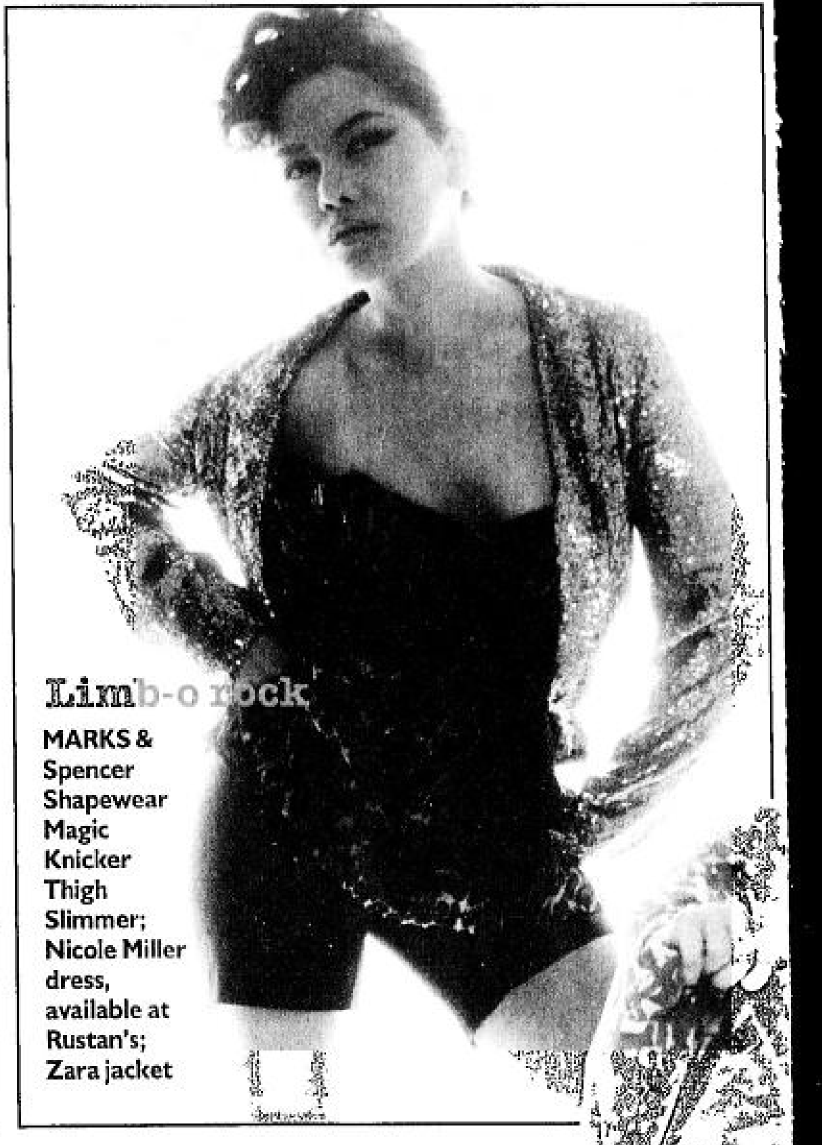


It's a cinch!

FLEXEES Comfort Shapewear Waist Cincher, at Debenhams; Debenhams Ultimate bra; Vivienne Tam top, available at Rustan's; Mango leggings and necklace

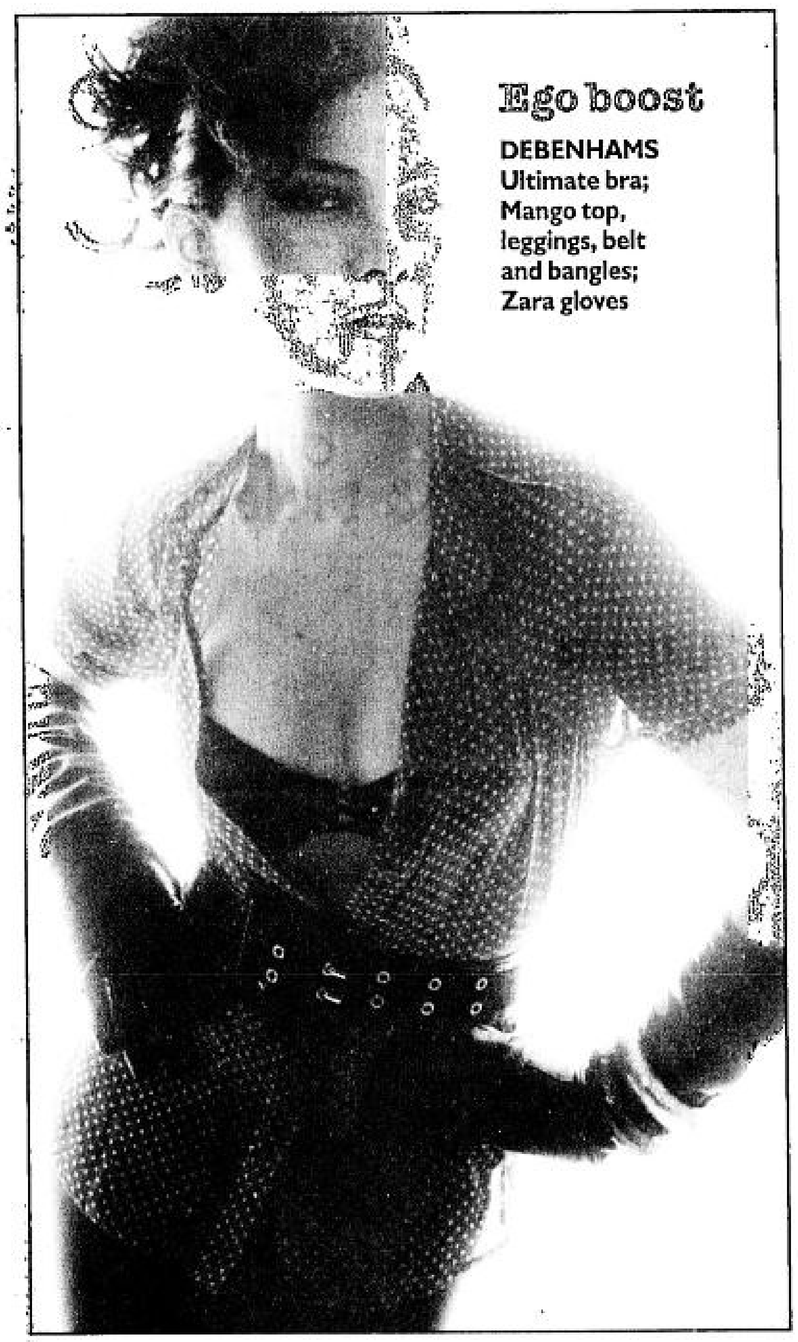
Control freak

FLEXEES Comfort Controlwear Smooth Shaping, available at Debenhams; Star by Julien Macdonald dress, at Debenhams; Mango trench coat, necklace and belt



Limb-o rock

MARKS & Spencer Shapewear Magic Knicker Thigh Slimmer; Nicole Miller dress, available at Rustan's; Zara jacket



Ego boost

DEBENHAMS Ultimate bra; Mango top, leggings, belt and bangles; Zara gloves

Nip/tuck

By Cheche V. Moral

DON'T WE ALL WANT A perfect body? Or, at least, a semblance of one—enough to fool those judging eyes that train on us head to foot each time we step out of the privacy of our bathrooms.

Unfortunately, not all of us are blessed with bods that can, in one sitting, scarf down two Big Macs, a large serving of fries and a large Coke (regular, please), and not pay for it with countless hours practically strapped to the treadmill. (That's if we can muster enough willpower to pry our fat bums from the couch for a trip to the gym.) It's doubly harder for women who reach a certain age and then things begin to, well, sag and point south.

Good thing surgical procedures that help defy nature's progression or siphon all evidence of our indulgences have become like an innocuous trip to the salon. Thing is, the price tag for a boob job or a liposuction isn't exactly as cheap as a haircut, or the process not as painless as even the most tortuous ingrown removal.

But these days, the quick fix toward getting the body of our dreams—okay, that maybe pushing it; let's just say, the body that can fool other people's eyes—isn't necessarily bank-breaking anymore. Nor does it involve horrid fluids spewing out of our punctured hides (thank you!).

Body-shaping undergarments have been around for 3,000 years, and as convoluted as the corset's history and evolution may be, women today should be pleased that this vanity garment has come a long way from the asphyxiation-causing Elizabethan styles. (That can only be good since blue isn't exactly everyone's color.)

With the advent of high-tech fabrics, modern girdles have done away with the stiff boning our grandmas used to wear. Even those atrocious-looking control panties—you know, the kinds that pressed the tummy flat only to push the excess flesh upward, with tight leg elastics that bit the bum into ugly lumps—have been relegated to the archives of unpleasant fashion memory.

While shapewear (as they are called) that are locally available to Filipinas are still not as varied as what are offered their counterparts abroad (we wonder why), they can count on several local and imported brands to have certain garments that may serve as the answer to their minimizing and maximizing dilemmas.

The push-up bra alone is likely the bestseller at any given brand, being the easiest way to make up for nature's shortcoming. As no woman can ever be too big up there, those jelly-like silicone inserts and stick-on silicone bras have also made their way into women's underwear drawers.

At the same time, women whose blessings are just, um, overflowing can turn to minimizer bras that offer sufficient support and coverage.

Problem areas

While some garments are created with panels that target specific problem areas, certain styles are now also intended for multiple body imperfections. Some control panties come with a high-waist (below the breast) that solve the "muffin roll" (the excess flesh that spills over the panty line). Others have longer legs to create slimmer thighs—bye-bye, thigh dimples.

Another style, called the body suit, extends to the legs and is akin to the leotard but with body-shaping functions: it lifts the breasts, flattens the tummy, cinches the waist and slims down the lower limbs. Most body suits are seamless, so they create a smooth silhouette under body-skimming gowns and dresses.

A long-line-bra, meanwhile, looks like a camisole but has a built-in underwire bra and a tummy-control panel. It also gets rids of the hideous bra bulge at the back.

Women who want a cinched waist and skinnier-looking thighs but are proud of their J.Lo behinds can look to capri-length high-waist cinchers that don't come with a bottom. Similarly, if the problem area is only on the upper torso, there are high-waist control thongs out there. (Tip: You'll find styles like these from online shopping sites.)

However, if it's derriere enhancement that you require, padded panties and long-leg panties with padded bottoms is the answer to your predicament.

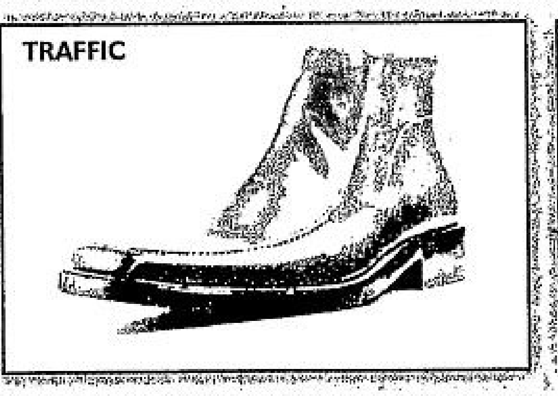
Remember that these shapewear come in varied support and control levels—from light to moderate to firm. Pick one that's just right for your body requirement. It's also imperative to buy the right size—never a size too big or a size too small. Overstuffing a bra that's larger than your cup size just isn't sexy and flattering.

Imagine, too, the discomfort of wearing a body suit that's too tight: You sweat buckets, you cut off your oxygen supply, your circulation will go bonkers. Sure, we're all willing to die a little to look good. But what's the use of that great bod when you're dead?

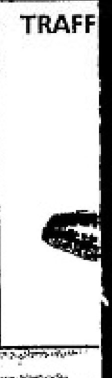
FERRAGAMO

FERRAGAMO

LOUIS Vuitton



TRAFFIC



TRAFF

Boot appeal

By Alex Y. Vergara

FERRAGAMO

IF YOU'RE A BIT WARY ABOUT investing on a pair or two of boots to add to your burgeoning shoe collection, then perhaps this bit of trivia from shoe designer Brian Tenorio, creative director of Tenorio Manila (www.briantenorio.com), will finally convince you to take a chance.

Boots, he declares, make a man look sexier because they enhance his line by giving him the illusion of fuller calves and thighs. Paired with the right pair of boot-cut pants, boots can be one of your best allies in hiding those chicken legs.

Still not sold on the idea? Then listen to this.

"I believe women are programmed by nature to go for men who look like they have a stronger and more stable 'foundation,'" says Tenorio. "One of the easiest ways to achieve stronger-looking hips and fuller calves is to wear a good pair of boots."

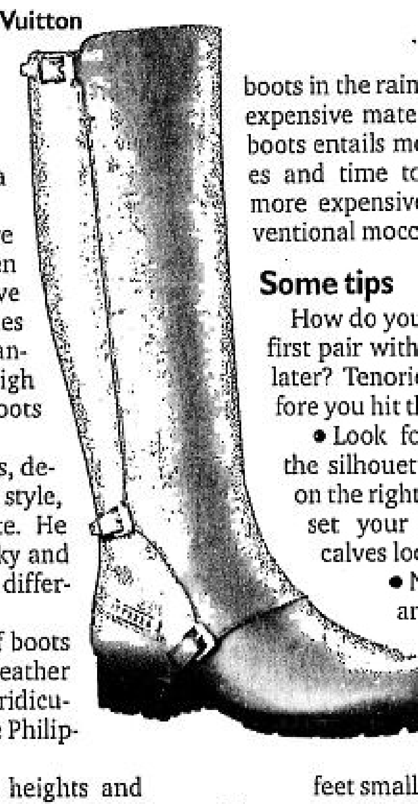
Besides, he adds, boots are considered the "next level" when it comes to footwear. After you've tried all sorts of looks and styles—from casual to dress shoes, sandals to sneakers—then it's high time you give a striking pair of boots a try.

"Visually," says Tenorio, "boots, depending on the cut, height and style, also redefine a man's silhouette. He can look long and sleek or chunky and massive by simply slipping on a different pair of boots."

True, wearing certain types of boots—especially the fur-lined, all-leather variety—would make you look ridiculous in a tropical country like the Philippines.

But there are certain styles, heights and makes that can be worn locally during cold months and in an air-conditioned environment. Baguio and Tagaytay weather, especially on a cold December or January night, is also conducive to wearing boots.

It isn't advisable, however, to wear leather boots in the rain, as it may damage the expensive material. Because a pair of boots entails more materials, processes and time to make, it's generally more expensive than the more conventional moccasins or lace-ups.



LOUIS Vuitton

Some tips

How do you go about buying your first pair without having to regret it later? Tenorio offers a few tips before you hit the stores:

- Look for boots that improve the silhouette of your legs. You're on the right track if the pair you've set your eye on makes your calves look fuller;
- Never go for boots that are chunky and blunt at the ends as they tend to make the average Filipino look more squat and his feet smaller;
- There are no hard and fast rules on what kind of boots can be worn in Manila and other urban centers like Cebu and Davao. As a whole, avoid extremely tall leather pairs and those lined with fur or fleece, as they're meant to be worn in temperate countries;

"You'll know even w
says Tenorio. "If it is l
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That's definitely
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Body-shaping undergarments are the quick-fix to your minimizing and maximizing dilemmas

Action figure

FLEXEES Comfort Controlwear Smooth Shaping, at Debenhams; Zara dress and shoes; Mango necklace

Photography Dix
Styling Kat Cruz for Big On Style (thebigonstyle@yahoo.com)
Makeup Gela Laurel for Lancôme using the F/W Luna Chic Collection
Hair Jerry Javier using L'Oreal Tecni Art
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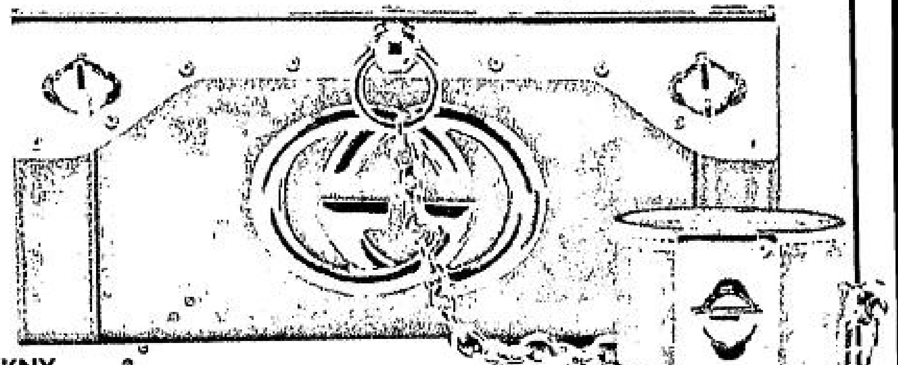
Midas Touch

'Gilt-y pleasures' loom this season with gold accessories that add a much-needed boost to fashion's somber trappings



GUCCI handcuff bag

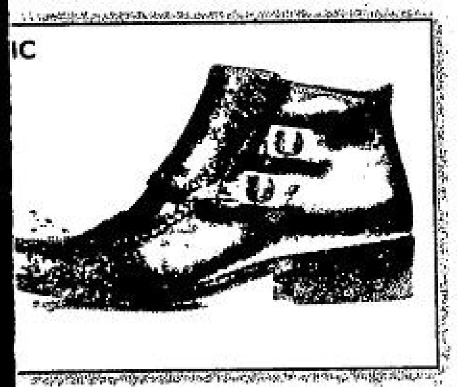
DKNY

GUCCI

DKNY

GUCCI pumps

BOTTEGA Veneta bag



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Boots make a man look sexier because they enhance his line by giving him the illusion of fuller calves and thighs

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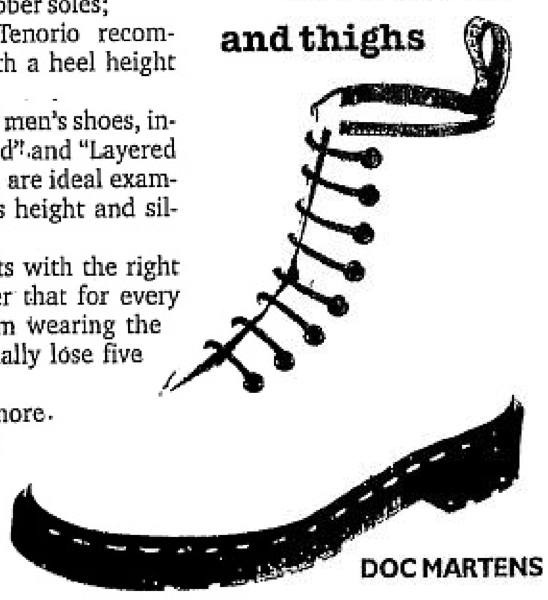

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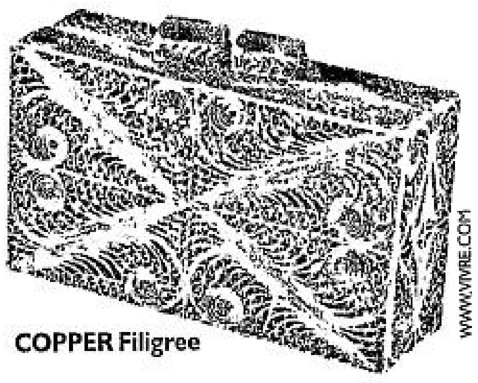
SHARON Stone for Badgley Mischka

FASHION BUZZ

From page D1

gusta," a crinkled ruby organza and velvet tango gown. According to Mark Badgley and James Mischka, the collection represents Hollywood glamour with a modern twist, and Sharon epitomizes this look. The duo has dressed Sharon many times and say they're always delighted with the results.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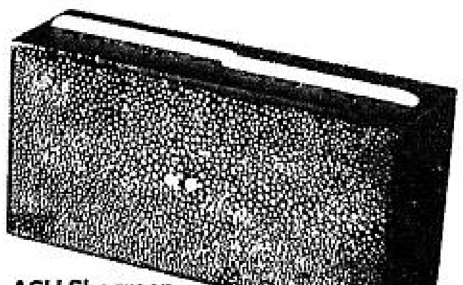
Pinoy luxe

Tina Maristela-Ocampo is a Philippine fashion icon in her own right, so it's a fabulous thing to hear that she's making waves abroad. Her Celestina minaudiere bags bring back the glamour and Old-World charm of the '60s and '70s, yet they are also wonderfully clever and contemporary.

Celestina is now available online at www.vivre.com. In New York, it will be available in Barneys, Takashimaya and Kirna Zabete. Joyce Boutique in Hong Kong and Ikram of Chicago, respectively, will also play host to these gorgeous bags.

Tina and her handmade bags will soon be featured in Vogue. First there was Rafe, then Bea Valdes, and now Tina! Go Pinoy!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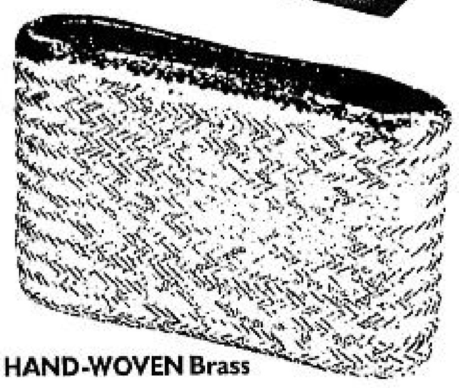
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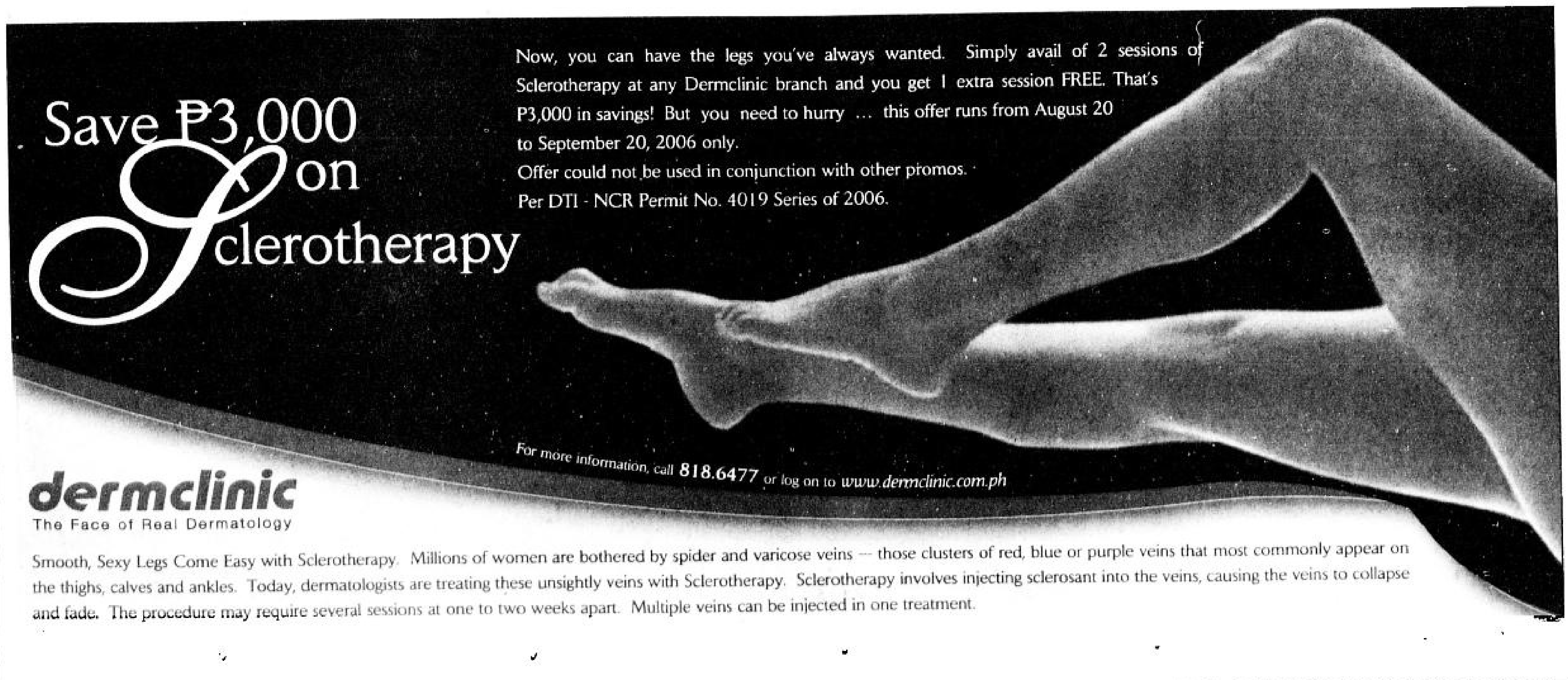

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Per DTI - NCR Permit No. 4019 Series of 2006.

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Contributing Editor **Ria Francisco-Prieto**
Email me at rbeauty@inquirer.com.ph

LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

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Angel Locsin
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Krist Bansuelo
Styling
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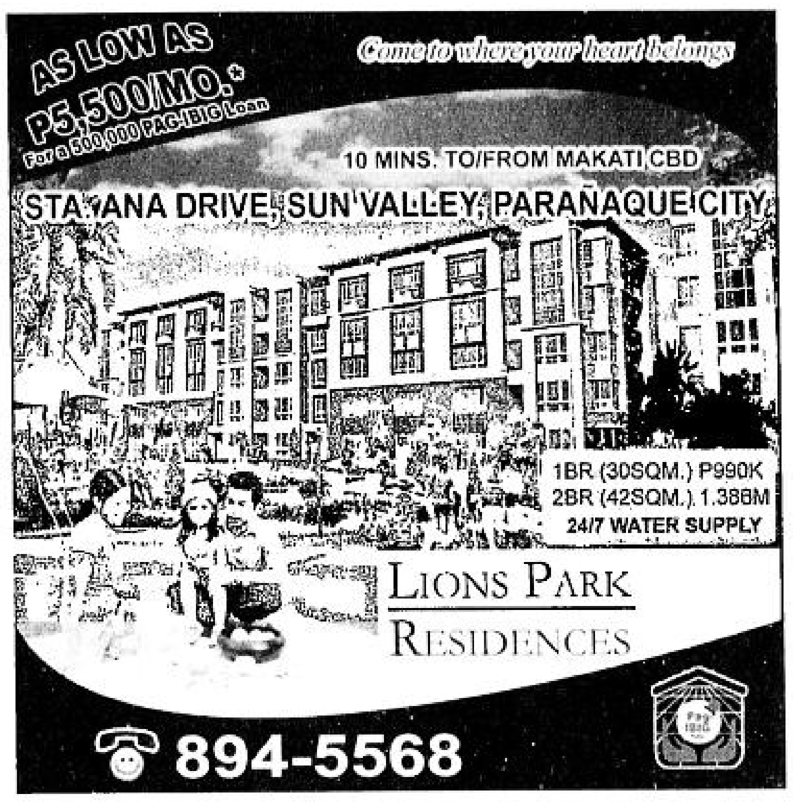
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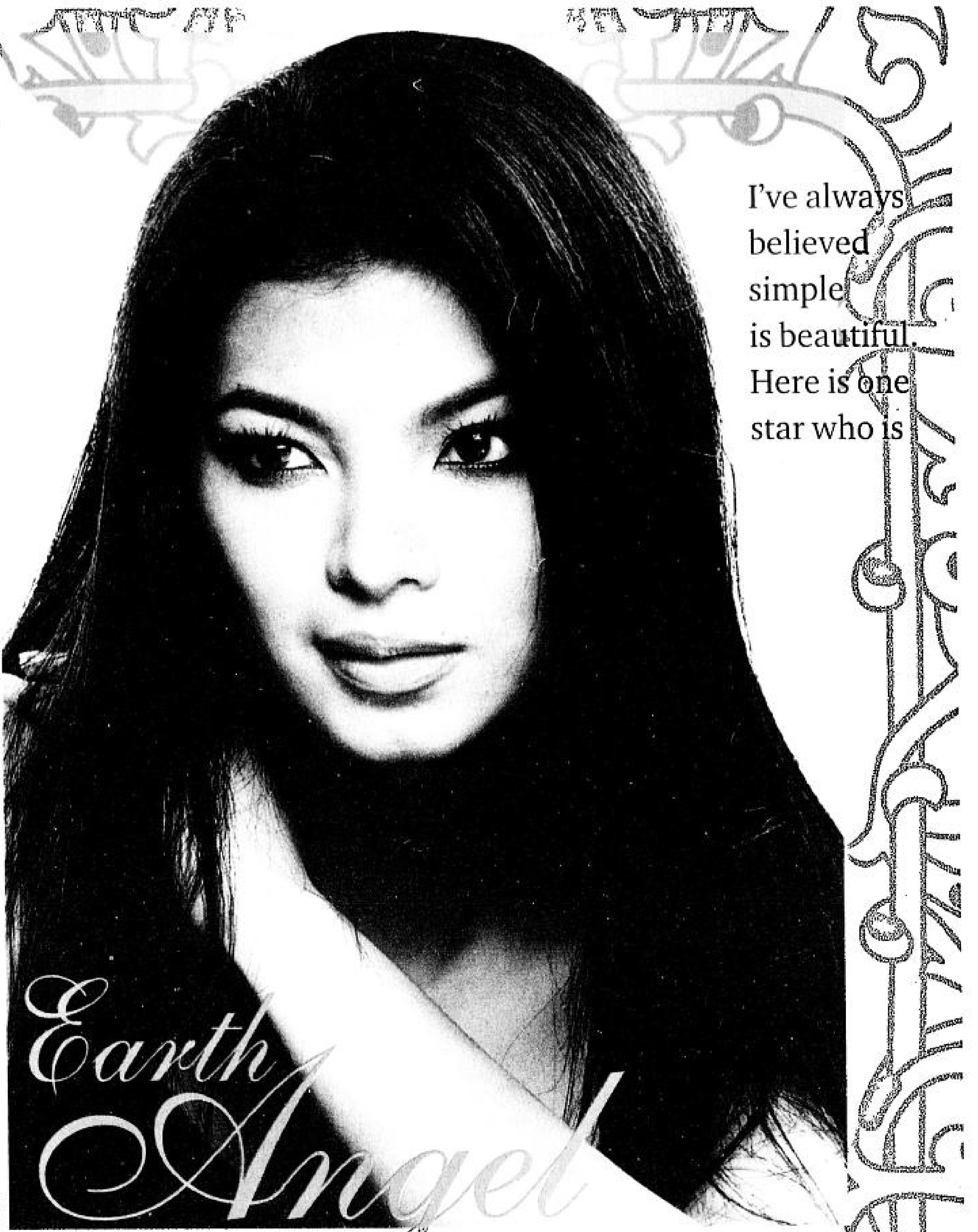


Earth Angel

I've always believed simple is beautiful. Here is one star who is

KNOCKOUT!

Ria Francisco-Prieto

THERE ARE SOME girls who get more intriguing the longer you deal with them. Angel Locsin is an example.

The first time you see her you know she is definitely pretty, but the longer you interact with her she becomes drop-dead gorgeous before your eyes.

It's no wonder, then, why she is one of the most sought-after and busiest teen stars today. She is so easy to work with that you forget who she is, and she also makes you forget how big a name she is in the show-biz industry.

I have become one of her biggest fans, too. She has appeal like no other and humility that is admirable. I've always believed simple is beautiful. Angel is beautiful.

What is beauty to you?

For me, inner beauty is real beauty.

What do you endorse and why did you choose to endorse them?

Timex—It's a well-known brand of watch both locally and internationally. Their styles fit my personality and my every mood.

Eskinol—It's a long-trusted brand in facial care, so I was very much honored when they asked me to be their endorser. I use their products all the time.

Head and Shoulders—I believe in what H&S can do to prevent dandruff, and yet still be gentle on my scalp. It really is good for the hair. Just one wash and say bye-bye to dandruff.

Avon—Ever since I was still a kid, *palagi ko na naririnig ang* Avon, household name na *'yan eh. Kaya tuwang-tuwa ako* when they got me to endorse for them. Now, I can't go out without lipstick. I really love Avon's Ultra Moisture Rich lipstick in Knockout Pink and Peach Dazzle. I use it always *sa* tapings and commitments *ko*.

Jag—Their jeans and tank tops are very cool. I can experiment with my look, and their skinny jeans are a perfect fit!

Lotus ballpen—*Sarap isulat*!

San Mig Coffee—I always drink coffee especially when I have tapings. My day will not be complete without one or two cups.

Smart—I have always been a Smart subscriber and I'm very satisfied with their services. I'm very happy to be a part of their family.

Hapee—I believe in Filipino brands, and Hapee toothpaste is one of them. At the same time, I support their causes; they hire physically challenged people as employees.

Drinky mineral water—It is important to take lots of liquids, especially water, to rehydrate our body. I always have mineral water with me everywhere I go.

What is your daily regimen?

A.M.—First thing in the morning after I wake up, I pray, do some stretching, eat breakfast then take a bath.

P.M.—Before I go to bed, I clear my face of all makeup, wash, go to bed, pray then sleep the night away.

How important is your hair to you? Any advice or tips for readers?

Hair is very important because it is our crowning glory.. *Pag* smooth and silky at dandruff-free *ang* hair *natin, makikita ng mga tao yun at lalong makakadagdag-ganda yun*.

Advice? Choose a good shampoo that will clean thoroughly and nourish your scalp. *Dahil pag hindi* clean at healthy *ang* scalp *mo* at may dandruff *ka, hindi tutubo ng maganda ang buhok natin. Kaya* I strongly recommend H&S *kasi*, with only one wash, *tanggal kaagad ang* more dandruff-causing fungi unlike other shampoo brands.

How important is skin?

Having clear and healthy skin is important because it is the first thing people notice when they look at you. That's why we really have to take good care of it. Drink lots of water, clean your face thoroughly after a day's work, take your daily dosage of vitamins, and sleep at least eight hours.

Best tip you were ever given?

Be humble. Always keep your feet firmly rooted on the ground.

Best tip you can ever give?

In everything you do, put God first.

Do you believe in plastic surgery?

I have nothing against plastic surgery. But for me, natural is more beautiful.

What makes you beautiful?

Honestly, I don't know. I'm just happy and contented with what I am, and I guess I radiate that happiness to others and they see that as beautiful.

Cheapest beauty buy you can't live without?

Lipstick and eyeliner. You can liven up your face with those two items.

What do you do to de-stress?

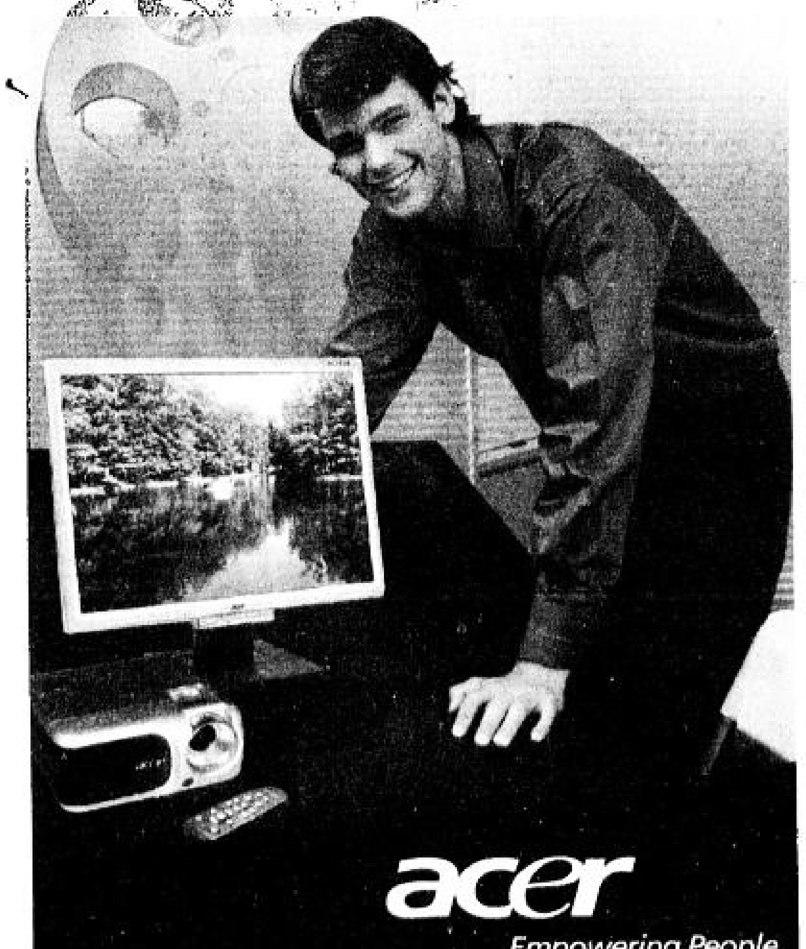
Relax, watch DVDs and hang out. Catch up on sleep. I like waking up late when there's no work.

What do you like most about makeup?

I like makeup because it enhances your features. And it's great because it adds color to your face when you're having an "unbeautiful" day. Makes you look more blooming.

Favorite makeup artists?

Krist Bansuelo, Juan Sarte, Lala Flores, Jerome Chang.



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Blink and you'll miss it

Text and photos by Barbi Chan

The key to barely-there makeup is to use the right products to enhance your natural beauty

BARELY-THERE MAKEUP IS FOR THOSE who want to look radiant, refreshed but not overly made up. This look is perfect for those who are just off to buy something in the grocery or quickly run an errand. You wouldn't want to look out of place in heavy makeup, but neither would you want to look as if you just got out of bed.

This kind of makeup is also suitable for sporty girls who want to have a natural glow and long-lasting makeup while working out, boxing or even running a marathon. Being active doesn't mean you have to look like "one of the boys." You can still look and feel like a "pretty girl" in just 10 minutes.

The key is to use the right products to enhance your natural beauty, not hide it.

1. Apply concealer only on areas that need coverage. This is important to achieve a flawless complexion. Try Youngbloods Mineral Makeup Loose Foundation. Small amount will go a long way of it. Just dab on areas where you need it and blend with your fingertips.

2. Even without makeup, if your brows are nicely trimmed and drawn, you will be ready to go out and face the world!

3. Try using tinted sunscreen, tinted moisturizer or tinted makeup primer for light coverage. But these are only suitable for those with few or no skin imperfections. Find a tint that matches your skin tone. For those with oily or blemished skin, try Maybelline's UV White Mousse Foundation. This will cover and keep the shine off your face for a long time. It also has UV protection so it acts as a sunblock, too.

4. Apply a little blusher on your face for that flushed look.

5. Curl lashes without applying mascara. For those who play sports and perspire a lot, apply waterproof lash and brow mascara.

6. Lip gloss will give you a hint of color. Choose a color that matches your lip tone.

E-mail the author at bc_maybelline_ny@yahoo.com

BEAUTY NEWS

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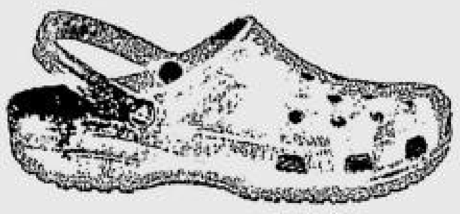

Crocs are available at Rustan's, SPF, Nothing But Water, Toby's, Planet Sports and True Value

Fine Fairness
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Soy: secret to healthy beauty

MORE AND MORE FACIAL CARE PRODUCTS are making use of nature-based ingredients such as fruits, herbs and certain plants with scientifically proven health benefits.

Soy is one of the most prominent natural ingredients contained in consumer products today. Aside from its vast use in food and beverage, soy is a newfound essential ingredient in facial and personal care products. Soy or the soya bean is a very rich source of quality protein, which contains essential amino acids that build and nourish the body's cells. This same heart-healthy protein in soy helps restore the skin's natural protective barrier, helping it retain the much-needed moisture to keep the skin soft and smooth.

Neutrogena, the leader in dermatologist-recommended skincare products, uses the latest breakthrough skincare science, Essential Soy, in its three new Neutrogena Fine Fairness products for cleansing, toning and moisturizing.

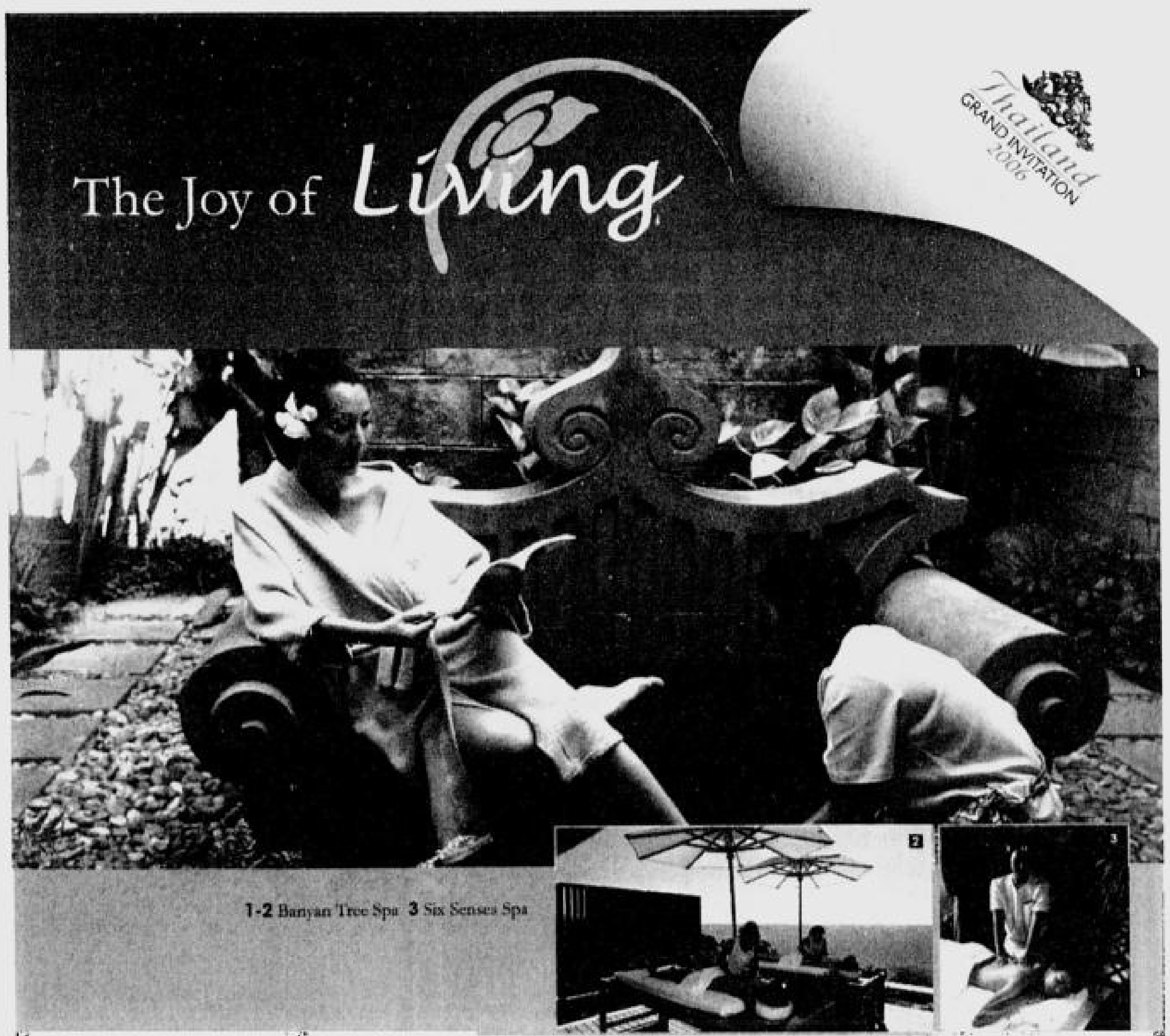
The Neutrogena Fine Fairness product platform offers women a complete suite of products that gently cleanse and moisturize the skin, working effectively to achieve healthy fairness and enhance one's beauty.

The Neutrogena Fine Fairness Cleanser with Essential Soy is a rich foam wash that thoroughly washes away dead skin cells, dirt and surface oil that causes dull, uneven-toned skin. The Neutrogena Fine Fairness Toner with Essential Soy improves overall skin clarity, reducing roughness and spots, improving skin tone evenness, and fairness. And the Neutrogena Fine Fairness Lotion SPF 15 with Essential Soy is an effective daily facial moisturizer that delivers continued hydration while reducing the appearance of melanin and uneven pigmentation to provide healthy and fair skin with a dewy glow.

Combined with the soy protein, phytonutrients play a critical role in the health and beauty benefits of soy. Isoflavones act as antioxidants to protect collagen from damage caused by "free radicals" that cause skin aging. This nutrient helps keep the skin supple and youthful. The isoflavones are also similar to hormone estrogen, which are connected to a whole host of health tissues that help prevent diseases of the heart, cancers and osteoporosis.

Saponins, on the other hand, are natural detergents found in soy. Saponins have detergent or surfactant properties because they contain both water- and fat-soluble components. These surface-active properties make saponins excellent foaming agents that help cleanse the skin.

The combined antioxidant and cleansing properties of soy make it a powerful ingredient to enhance elasticity and fairness of the facial skin.



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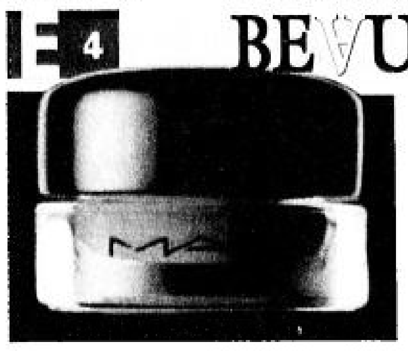
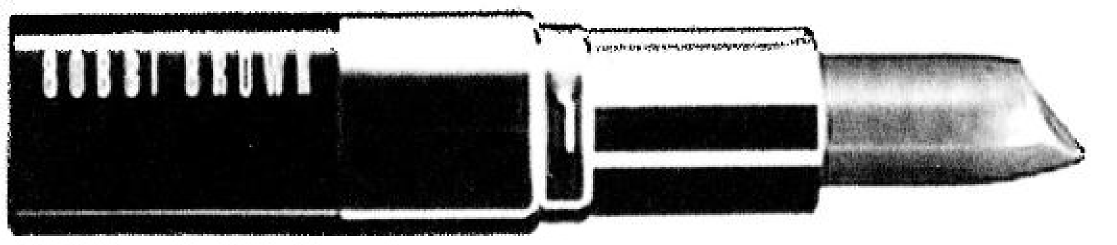


MAC Fluidline waterproof eyeliner



BOBBI Brown Lipstick in Burgundy

Plums, berries and everything's coming up roses

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT the latest issue of InStyle Magazine? I look forward to its Autumn-Winter 2006 feature because that is when makeup trends get all "glammed up."

Unlike the past years where there are usually just one, or two at the most, focal points such as the eyes and lips, InStyle focuses on a third aspect this year—the cheeks.

Basic rules will always apply whenever one facial feature is being emphasized via makeup; thus, the rest of the face stays subtle so that the person will not look cheap.

Do not wear all the looks in one go—just pick one and choose!

What I am most excited about is that the new looks are all compatible with the varied Asian skin coloring and features.

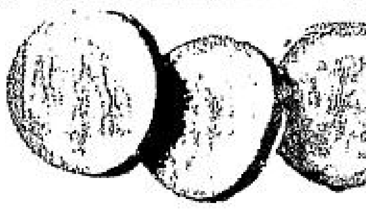
Lips

Burgundy lipstick—this we were all born to wear even on a plain unmade-up face due to our dark hair, features and yellow-toned skin. Whether worn dark or as a sheer tint, it adds immediate glow as it reflects on our cheeks.

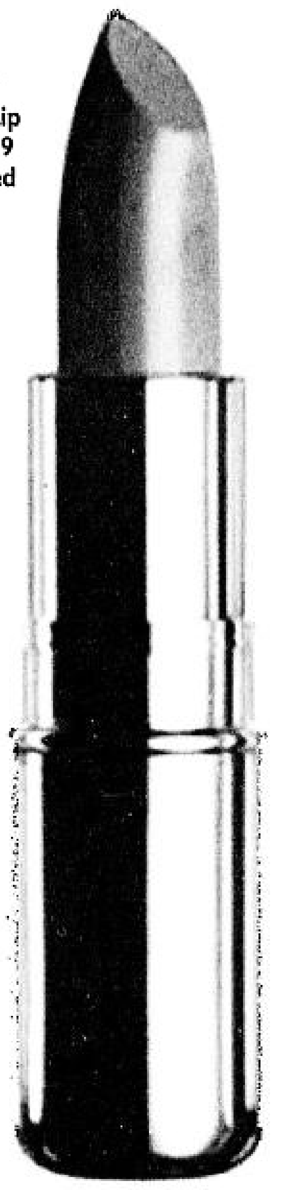
Actress Melissa Sagemiller was wearing Avon's Ultra Color Rich lipstick in Bordeaux Velvet.

Apply two thin coats of lipstick straight from the tube instead of one intense thick one. The deeper the complexion the darker you can go.

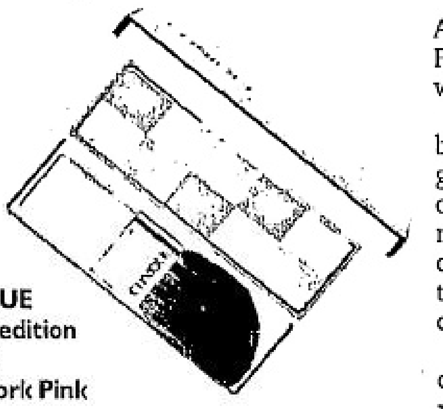
Other suggestions: Bobbi Brown lipstick in Burgundy, Shiseido Sheer Berry, The Body Shop 09 Silvered Plum, MAC Diva, Pout Carpetburn or Modelco Cheeky Tints cheek and lip tint in Rosy Red or Blushing Pink, which has a surprisingly lot of pigment for a gel formula and doesn't dry lips like some gel tints.



SHISEIDO Accentuating Color Stick in S5 Rosy flush



THE BODY Shop Lip color 09 Silvered Plum



CLINIQUE limited-edition blush in Patchwork Pink

Eyes

Smokey Plum—instead of the usual blacks, dark browns and grays, shades of plum, violets and medium brown are applied on lids and around the eyes.

Actress Moon Bloodgood wears Revlon Illuminating cream shadow in Vavava Bloom.

I use Clinique's Color Surge Eyeshadow Quad in Plum Seduction because of its cream to powder formula that has lasting power but rich pigment that glides on.

Try out the great new liquid eyeliners in a pot like those from MAC, Clinique and Smashbox. They are water-proof, easy to apply and lasts the whole night. They give you smoky mysterious glances.

Fab find: Waterproof is not oil-proof so those who have a problem with smearing eyeliner should try Duwop's Reverse eyeliner, which is applied around the eye area.

Rosy cheeks

I was very excited because the star product in this portion was just sent to me. That is Shiseido's Accentuating color stick in Rosy Flush, which actress Sarah Carter wears in a photo in InStyle.

It's a creamy gel blush in a stick but it goes on sheer and is non-greasy. It looks fuschia/magenta on stick, but goes on a romantic rosy flush like that found in those cinema maidens who come face to face with the man of their dreams.

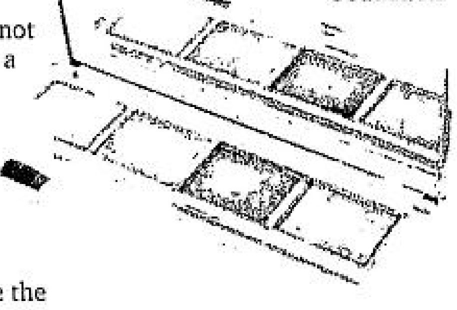
Professional tip: Cream blush can be too intense for some, so makeup artist Barose recommends mixing it with medium pink powder to soften the effect and add staying power.

Carter used Clarins Colorful Horizon's Express Face Palette.

But I fell in love with Clinique's Blushing Blush Powder in Patchwork Pink, which comes in three shades of pink—beige pink, old rose and plummy pink—all in tiny squares like tiles put together to form the blush. You may use the colors individually for eye makeup or swirl the whole brush on for a universally flattering pink blush.

Duwop, Smashbox, Pout and Modelco are available at Beauty Bar. Clarins, Clinique, Bobbi Brown and MAC at Rustan's Department Store.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com



CLINIQUE Color Surge eyeshadow in Plum Seduction

BEAUTY SHOUT-OUT

All beauty products you put on your face won't matter if you neglect the most important element: your health and wellness. Eat right, sleep right and be happy.

Isabel Roces (model/tv host)

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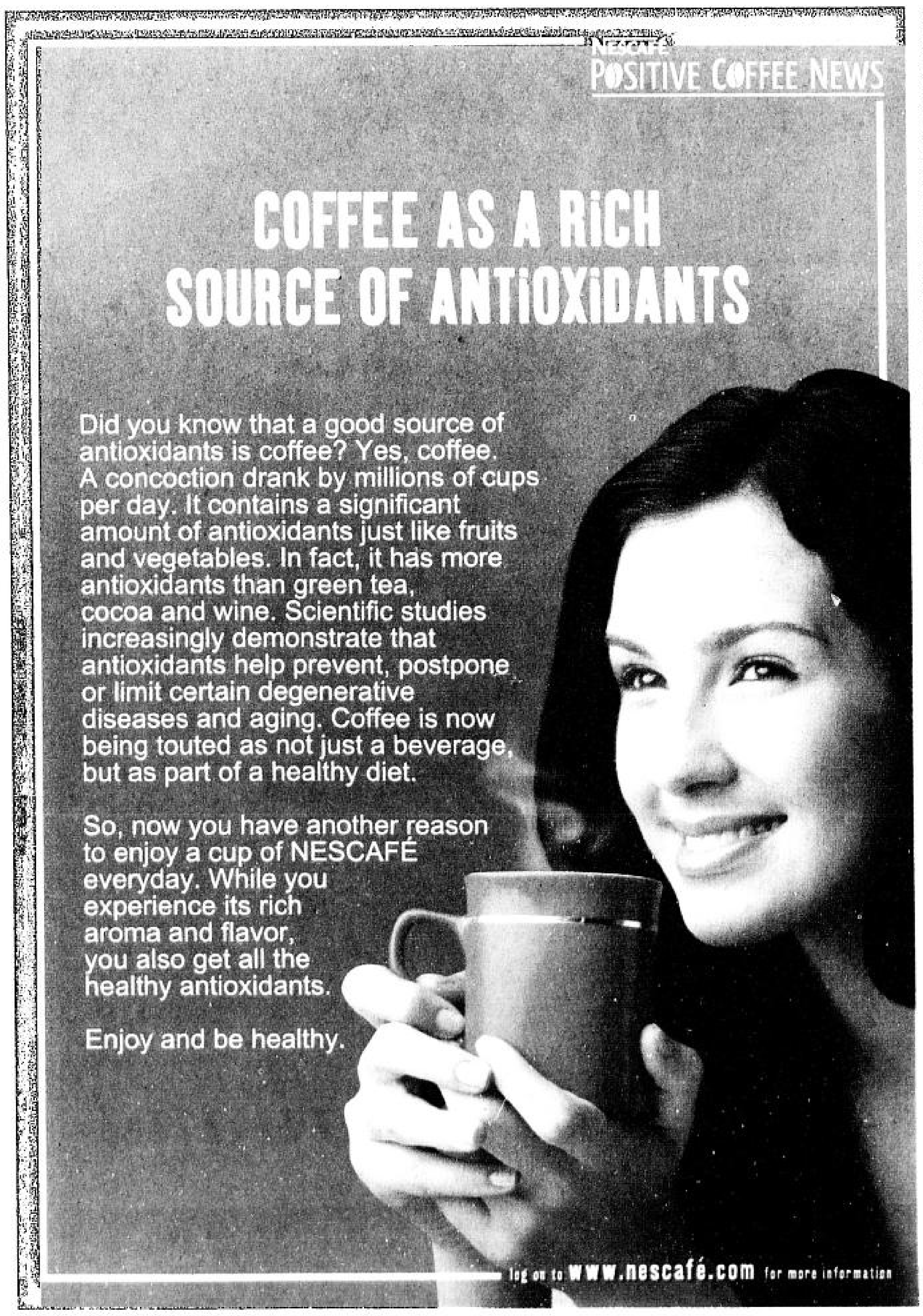

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Did you know that a good source of antioxidants is coffee? Yes, coffee. A concoction drank by millions of cups per day. It contains a significant amount of antioxidants just like fruits and vegetables. In fact, it has more antioxidants than green tea, cocoa and wine. Scientific studies increasingly demonstrate that antioxidants help prevent, postpone or limit certain degenerative diseases and aging. Coffee is now being touted as not just a beverage, but as part of a healthy diet.

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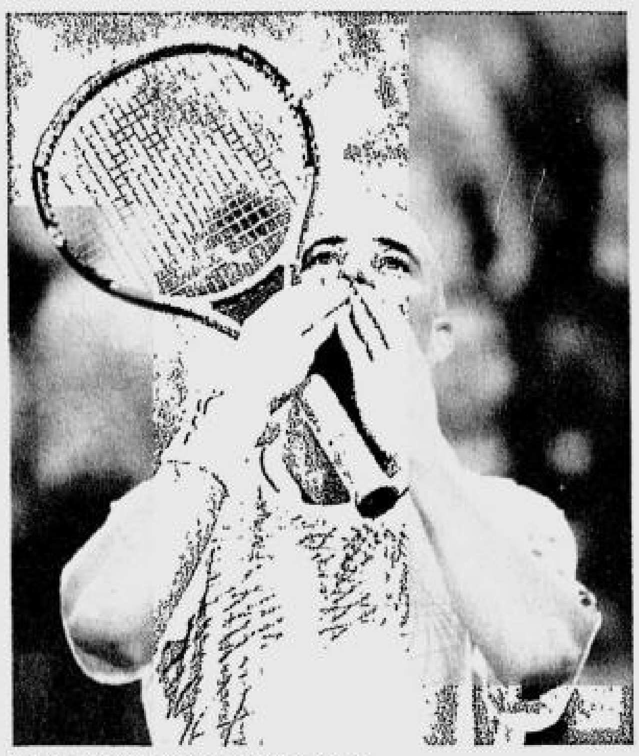
MARTINA Navratilova makes her own exit after 2,000 games.



ANDRE Agassi's tearful farewell

Bringing the spa to your home

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

YOU'VE HEARD OF home-service massage, but have you heard of bringing the entire spa to your home?

My "spaholic" friend is doing it and thus raising the bar for spa services in Metro Manila.

Home-service massage is already a thriving enterprise, especially in middle-class and upper-class villages. To this lifestyle, the Spaholics Home Spa adds not only a good menu of massage and body treatments one usually gets in the spa, but also the amenities and other features that create the ambiance for relaxation and chilling out.

I decided to try it a week into the US Open (tennis, of course), after having seen the cliffhanger matches of Andre Agassi and his tearful farewell. Even my non-tennis-playing friends were talking of that moment at the US Open in New York, when, having lost to a younger man named Benjamin Becker, Agassi faced the crowd in the Arthur Ashe stadium, and didn't try much to fight back his tears and say his goodbye.

He was retiring at 36—not even a halfway mark in most careers, but in tennis, that age is the time to recede into the sunset.

Another tennis great, Martina Navratilova, who, turning 50 next month and who has played 2,000 matches the past three decades and 18 singles titles (nine alone in Wimbledon), also played her last match at this US Open—and won the mixed doubles title.

Andre and Martina, as they themselves put it, "did it!" Tennis doesn't only build stamina, it tests character, which is either sharpened or weakened by the prospect of victory and defeat—before an audience (including the peanut gallery in the club).

So, it was good to note that those two tennis celeb moments weren't lost on the lifestyle crowd. But then, again, I digress (like I told my boss once who asked me my career path—it always leads to the tennis court, I said. Can't help it.).

Anyway, that Saturday called for some de-stressing. Emma Rose Policarpio, who's as spaholic as one could be, had been trying to talk me into trying out her Spaholics Home Spa. I did.

After a day of tennis in the club, I came home at 10 p.m. to my den that had been decked out like a city spa—a massage table in the center of the room, aromatherapy stuff arranged on one side, a soothing piano music in the background.

A woman attendant, Rosevale, stood by the door, welcoming me right into my home. (I must admit it felt odd, pleasantly odd.) The door opening onto a pocket garden helped the make-believe spa atmosphere. That and the dimmed lights. Not even my son's pesky bichon, Jack-jack, dared dart into my private space that night.

I got the hot stone massage, where the stones are placed on your palms and on strategic points on your back. The warmth was calming. This was letting go. It helped that I knew I didn't have to drive home after this; I just had to tread upstairs to the bedroom.

The Spaholics Home Spa has complete paraphernalia (down to the linens) for a wide menu of massage—Sui Thai massage (a combination of Thai/Swedish techniques to unblock the stiffness of your body, using deep palm strokes from the shoulders to the hips; *bentosa* or "cupping," using herbal leaves for improved blood circulation; the Dagdagay foot therapy, using a stick to stimulate your feet's nerve endings; the Javanese *lulur* with yogurt wrap that uses the Balinese deep-tissue massage.

Obviously, Emma Rose has tried all kinds of spa, near and far (as far as Istanbul), to come up with such a niche idea. For now the Spaholics Home Spa is limited to the south. You can even hold spa parties. (It's not fully operational yet, but you can inquire at 0917-5313531.)

LARRY J. Cruz has four new restaurants, and he's not started yet.

This raises the bar yet again for spaholics

Larry's new beginning

I don't think Larry J. Cruz programmed his major announcement to be in the season of Agassi/Navratilova retirements, but this September, as he celebrates his birthday on Sunday, for sure he'll be preparing friends for his grand moves.

Is he retiring, I asked him. No, I'm just beginning, a new beginning, he said.

He's opening five restaurants, starting with Abe at The Fort. Abe is named after Larry's father, E. Aguilar Cruz—an ambassador, a journalist, fiction writer, painter, gourmet, bon vivant.

Our batch of journalists had the privilege of having been exposed to Abe Cruz, even if only in the twilight of his life. But then, given his zest for living, I don't think he knew twilight. He loved life, the fine blessings and the learnings it could bring—including French literature (he wrote and read the language), fountain pen collection (he never used any other writing tool), music (I will never forget the late morning our staff chilled out in his place, helping itself to pâté and salmon, which were already forbidden foods for Abe at that time, and we listened to him talk about so many things as Mitsuko Uchida's Mozart piano music played in the background), and of course, food. Malate was so Abe Cruz, and later on Larry.

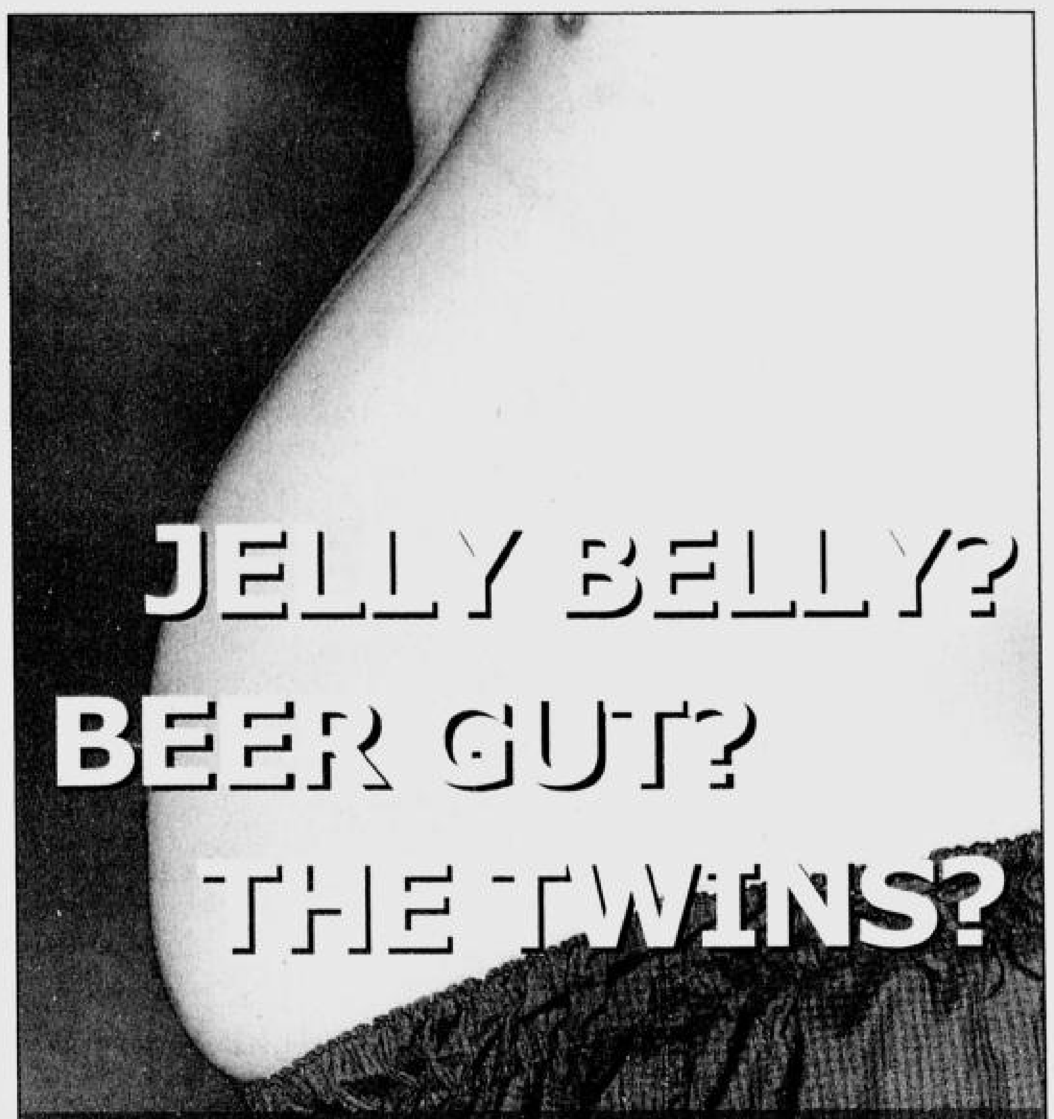
The urban Filipino owes a crucial piece of his cultured and bohemian lifestyle to Abe Cruz. He was among the last renaissance men in the country. (Many of today's Filipino men haven't even begun to learn the basics of etiquette and social graces—like not beating a woman to the elevator door—so how can you talk of renaissance?)

Abe, the restaurant, is certainly one development to look forward to.

Ambeth's daily journal

Still speaking of the man, one

BRINGING F3



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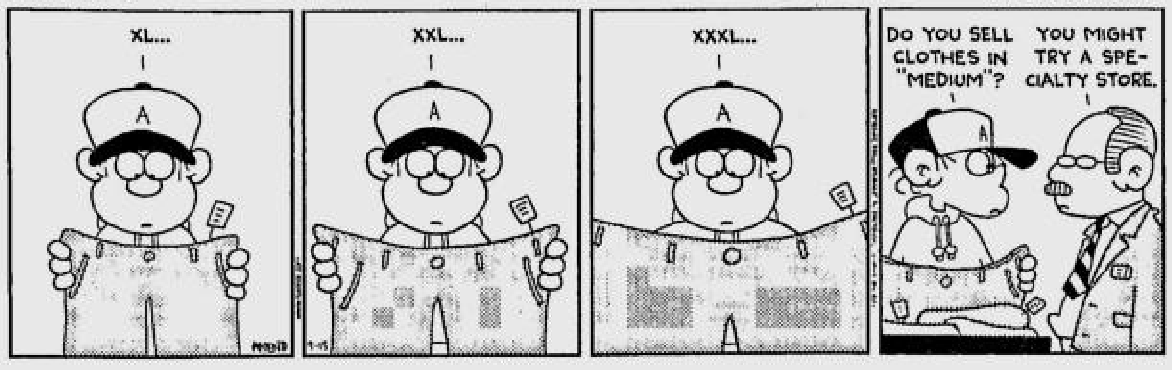
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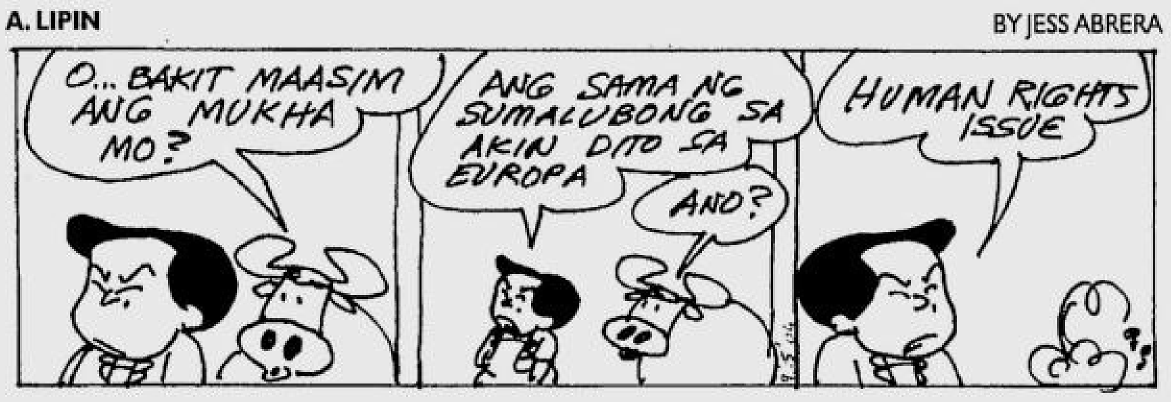
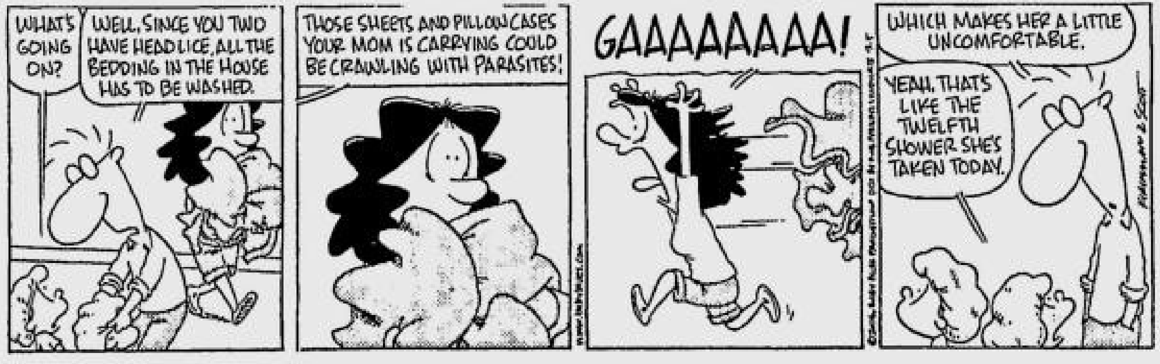
XXL...
XXXL...
DO YOU SELL CLOTHES IN "MEDIUM"?
YOU MIGHT TRY A SPECIALTY STORE.

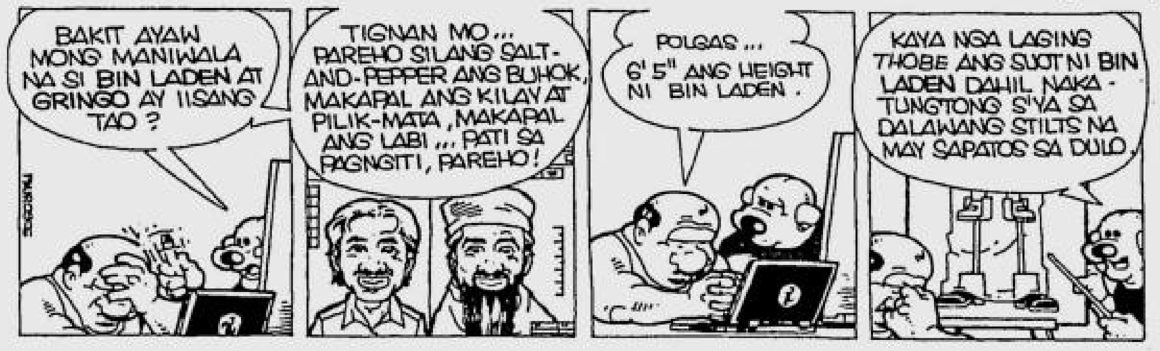
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


O... BAKIT MAASIM ANG MUKHA MO?
ANG SAMA NG SUMALUBONG SA AKIN DITO SA EUROPA
ANO?
HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE

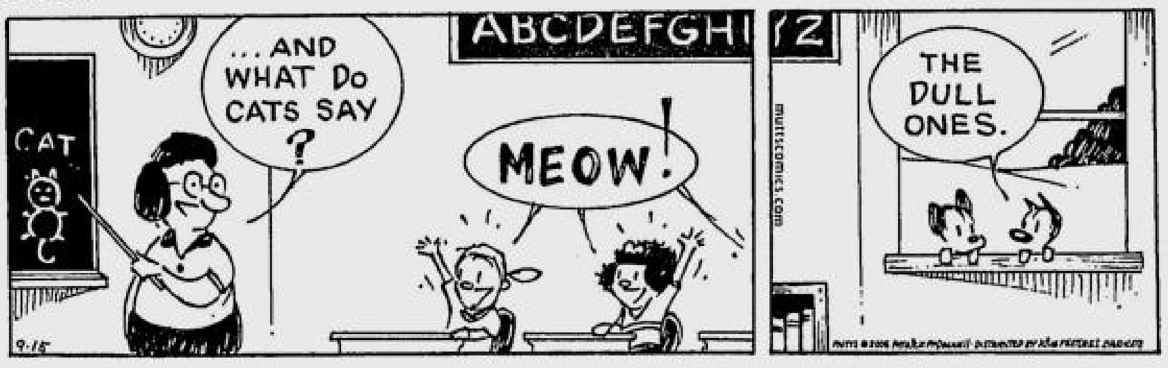
BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT'S GOING ON?
WELL, SINCE YOU TWO HAVE HEAD LICE, ALL THE BEDDING IN THE HOUSE HAS TO BE WASHED.
THOSE SHEETS AND PILLOWCASES YOUR MOM IS CARRYING COULD BE CRAWLING WITH PARASITES!
GAAAAAAAA!
WHICH MAKES HER A LITTLE UNCOMFORTABLE.
YEAH. THAT'S LIKE THE TWELFTH SHOWER SHE'S TAKEN TODAY.

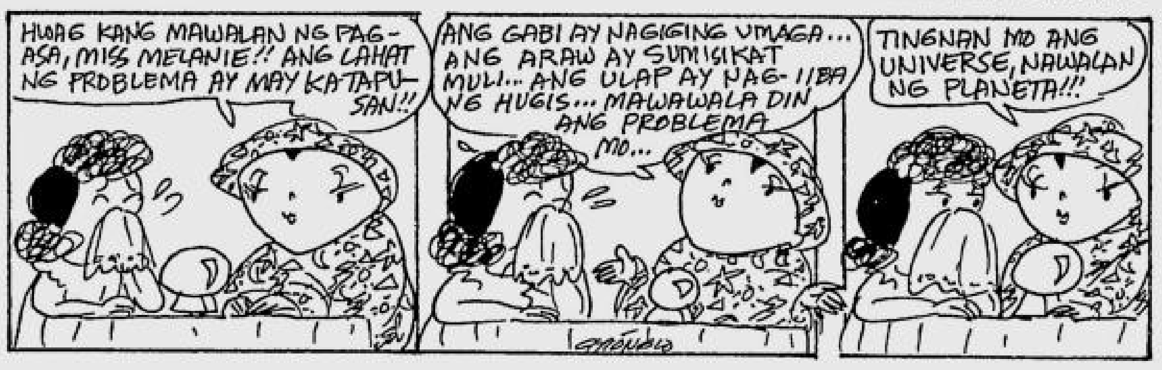
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


BAKIT AYAW MONG MANIWALA NA SI BIN LADEN AT GRINGO AY IISANG TAO?
TIGNAN MO... PAREHO SILANG SALT-AND-PEPPER ANG BUHOK, MAKAPAL ANG KILAY AT PILIK-MATA, MAKAPAL ANG LABI... PATI SA PAGNGITI, PAREHO!
POLGAS... 6'5" ANG HEIGHT NI BIN LADEN.
KAYA NGA LAGING THOBE ANG SUOT NI BIN LADEN DAHIL NAKATUNGTONG S'YA SA DALAWANG STILTS NA MAY SAPATOS SA DULO.

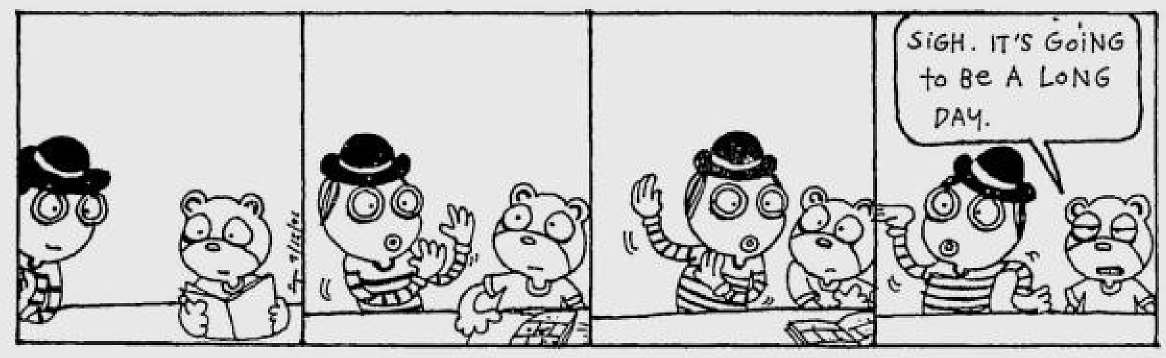
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


CAT
ABCDEFGHI
YZ
...AND WHAT DO CATS SAY?
MEOW!
THE DULL ONES.
muttscomics.com

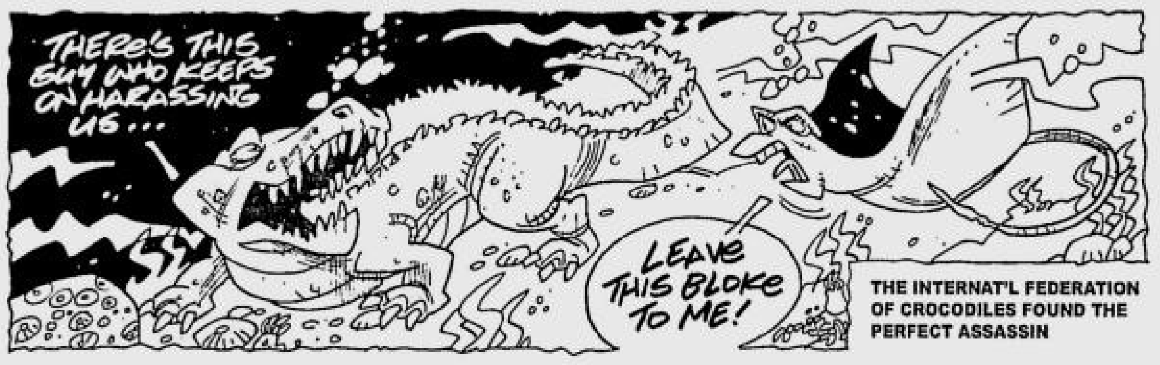
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HWAG KANG MAWALAN NG PAG-ASA, MISS MELANIE!! ANG LAHAT NG PROBLEMA AY MAY KATAPUSAN!!
ANG GABI AY NAGIGING UMAGA... ANG ARAW AY SUMISIKAT MULI... ANG ULAP AY NAG-IIBA NG HUGIS... MAWAWALA DIN ANG PROBLEMA MO...
TINGNAN MO ANG UNIVERSE, NAWALAN NG PLANETA!!!

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

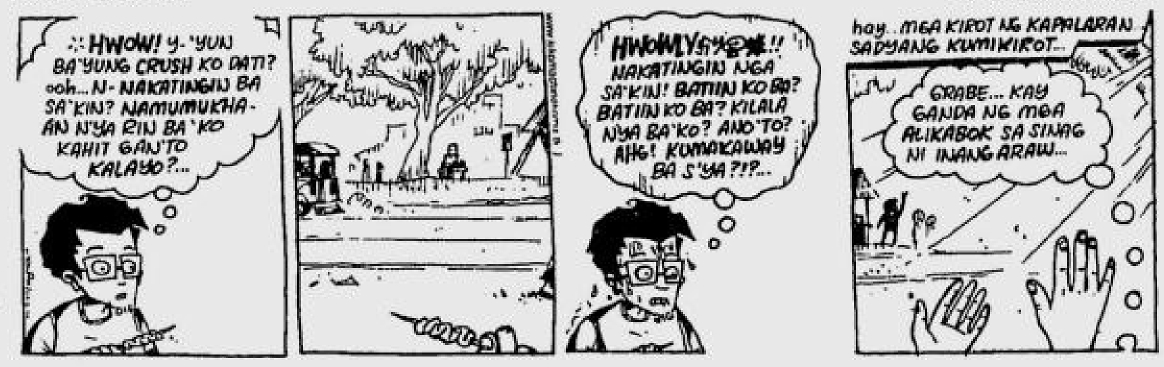

SIGH. IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG DAY.

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

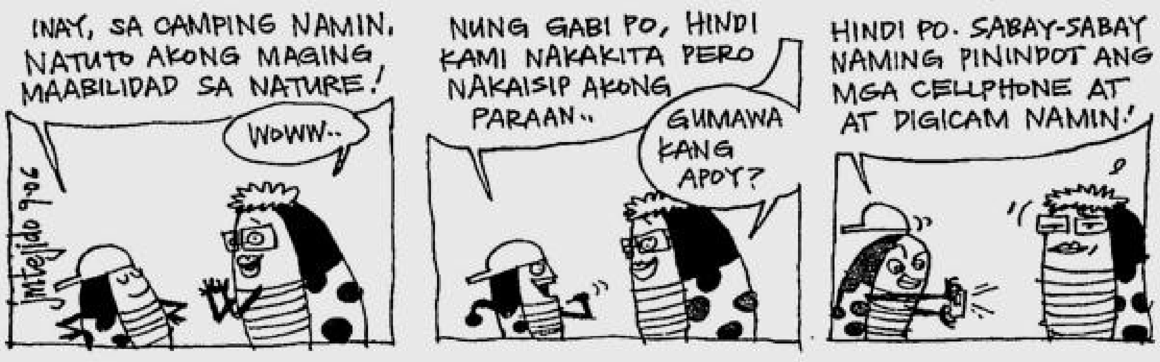

THERE'S THIS GUY WHO KEEPS ON HARASSING US...
LEAVE THIS BLOKE TO ME!

THE INTERNAT'L FEDERATION OF CROCODILES FOUND THE PERFECT ASSASSIN

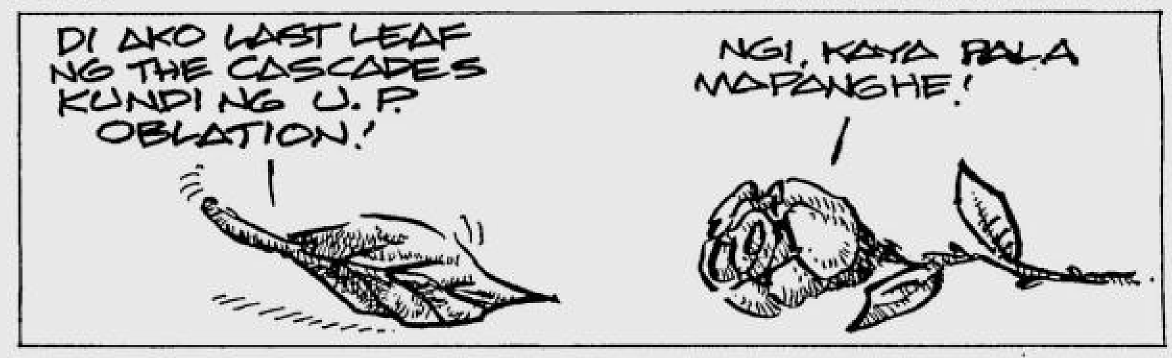
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


HWOW! Y-'YUN BA 'YUNG CRUSH KO DATI? ooh... N- NAKATINGIN BA SA'KIN? NAMUMUKHAAN N'YA RIN BA 'KO KAHIT GAN'TO KALAYO?...
HWOWLY!!! NAKATINGIN NGA SA'KIN! BATIIN KO BA? BATIIN KO BA? KILALA N'YA BA 'KO? ANO 'TO? AHG! KUMAKAWAY BA S'YA?!?...
hay... MGA KIROT NG KAPALARAN SADYANG KUMIKIROT...
GRABE... KAY GANDA NG MGA ALIKABOK SA SINAG NI INANG ARAW...

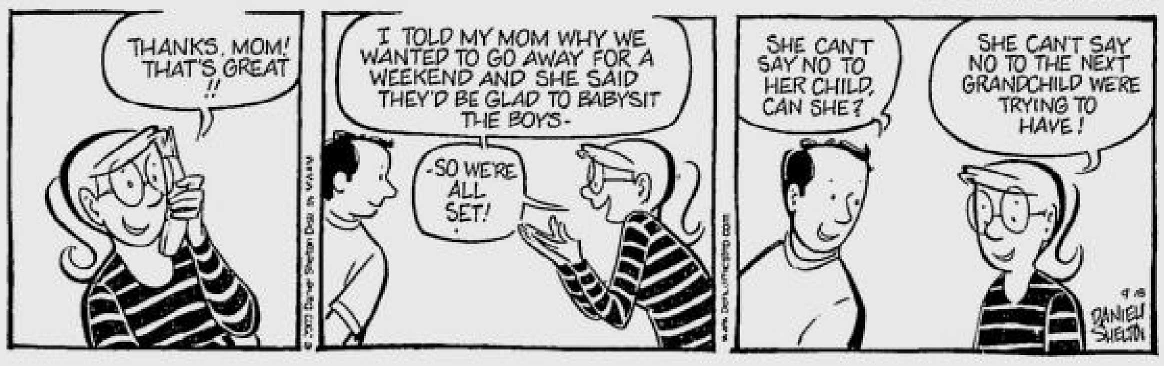
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


INAY, SA CAMPING NAMIN, NATUTO AKONG MAGING MAABILIDAD SA NATURE!
WOWW..
NUNG GABI PO, HINDI KAMI NAKAKITA PERO NAKAISIP AKONG PARAAN..
GUMAWA KANG APOY?
HINDI PO. SABAY-SABAY NAMING PININDOT ANG MGA CELLPHONE AT AT DIGICAM NAMIN!
tejido 9-06

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


DI AKO LAST LEAF NG THE CASCADES KUNDI NG U.P. OBLATION!
NGI, KAYA PALA MAPANGHE!

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


THANKS, MOM! THAT'S GREAT!!
I TOLD MY MOM WHY WE WANTED TO GO AWAY FOR A WEEKEND AND SHE SAID THEY'D BE GLAD TO BABYSIT THE BOYS-
-SO WE'RE ALL SET!
SHE CAN'T SAY NO TO HER CHILD, CAN SHE?
SHE CAN'T SAY NO TO THE NEXT GRANDCHILD WE'RE TRYING TO HAVE!
DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	9	10	■	11	12	13
14					■	15					■	16		
17					18						■	19		
20						■	■	21		22				
■	■	■	23			24	25		■	26				
27	28	29			■	30			■	31			■	■
32			■	33	34			■	35				36	37
38			39	■	40			41		■	42			
43				44		■	45			46	■	47		
■	■	48			■	49			■	50	51			
52	53				■	54			55			■	■	■
56					57		■	■	58			59	60	61
62			■	63			64	65						
66			■	67					■	68				
69			■	70					■	71				

By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

9/15/06

ACROSS
1 Texas mission
6 Composers' grp.
11 __-fi
14 De Brunhoff's elephant
15 Mythical weeper
16 Forever and a day
17 Newlywed's transport?
19 Nuptial lead-in
20 Will contents
21 Symbol of Communism
23 Blades to cut blades
26 Leaning
27 Open sore
30 Agile deer
31 Toshiba rival
32 Neighbor of Isr.
33 Wound cover
35 Unchanging
38 Israeli resort
40 Our country, slangily
42 Created
43 Change postal maps
45 165, once
47 Negative link
48 Singer Sumac
49 Scare word
50 Twistable joint
52 Pale
54 Not close-minded about
56 Storage rooms
58 Helmet
62 Old salt
63 Racketeer's transport?
66 Approves
67 Attempter
68 "Tomorrow" musical
69 Born
70 Maternally related
71 Simpleton

DOWN
1 French cleric
2 "I Remember Mama" character
3 Somewhat
4 "__ Butterfly"
5 Noted speakers
6 Leaf-cutter, e.g.
7 Knight's title
8 Rough
9 Irish Rose's love
10 Hanging ornament
11 Sanitation transport?
12 Strong pink
13 Motionless
18 Actor Ayres
22 Word with engine or bath
24 Big times
25 Peter Weller movie
27 Manipulator
28 Singer Lovett
29 Native American transport?
34 Pool stick
35 Coltrane's instrument
36 Adored one
37 Beak's fleshy adjunct
39 Big books
41 Ice on the move
44 Actress Fabray
46 City in Rome
49 __-Herzegovina
51 Emphatic refusal
52 Respond to
53 Quench
55 PMs
57 Small gull
59 Ranch worker
60 LSD, to users
61 Those people
64 Place to surf
65 Dander

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

N	I	P	■	S	E	P	A	L	S	■	M	A	A	M
A	L	E	■	O	R	A	N	G	E	■	A	R	I	A
V	I	A	■	M	A	R	K	E	T	A	L	E	R	T
Y	E	S	■	E	S	T	A	■	B	R	E	A	S	T
■	■	H	A	R	E	■	■	T	A	O	S	■	■	■
F	O	O	L	S	R	U	S	H	I	N	■	C	T	S
R	H	O	D	E	■	N	O	E	L	■	F	O	R	E
E	A	T	A	T	■	S	L	Y	■	M	U	R	A	L
E	R	E	S	■	S	E	A	R	■	A	N	N	I	E
D	A	R	■	W	H	E	R	E	A	N	G	E	L	S
■	■	■	P	A	I	N	■	■	M	A	I	D	■	■
O	B	T	A	I	N	■	A	T	I	T	■	B	I	L
F	E	A	R	T	O	T	R	A	D	E	■	E	R	A
F	A	R	E	■	L	A	O	T	S	E	■	E	M	U
S	U	P	S	■	A	U	D	I	T	S	■	F	A	D

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9/15/06

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're ambitious and idealistic, but you're not showy about this. You take whatever you do very seriously. You have high standards and work hard to maintain them. You also take considerable pains to protect your private life, but you expect to be acknowledged and rewarded for your public efforts. The year ahead holds major changes, perhaps as significant as in 1997.
Birthdate of: Prince Harry, British royal; Tommy Lee Jones, actor; Oliver Stone, director.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Sometimes you like to debate because it gives you a thrill. Today is one of those days when you identify strongly with your ideas. Caution: You might come on too heavy for others!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're extremely persuasive at work today. People will definitely listen to you. This is good day to delegate work or rearrange schedules.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your creative skills are hot today. You're also feeling playful and flirtatious. Artists and teachers can be particularly productive and effective.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a wonderful day to make repairs and improvements to where you live. Similarly, family discussions might be heated and yet quite productive.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Today you can teach, market, sell, persuade and influence anyone with your words. Your enthusiasm and dynamic energy make you irresistible!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You're working hard for your money today. Some of you are also spending it as fast as it comes in. Either way, cash is definitely flowing!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're a human dynamo today. All your communication is extremely effective. You can convince anyone about practically anything. (That's because both Mercury and Mars are lined up in your sign.)

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Your research skills are tops right now. If there's any answer that you seek, you'll find it. You're like a dog with a bone. (Woof!)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your enthusiasm to convince a friend about something could result in a tense discussion. If others want to hear what you have to say, fine. If they don't want to hear it, let it be.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Discussions with bosses and parents are forceful today. You might be doing the talking; you might be doing the listening. Either way, discussions are dynamic and vigorous!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're a fabulous networker. When you're excited about a cause and you want people to jump on board, you know what you're doing. Today is one of those days. You're the Pied Piper!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): When it comes to deciding how something is shared today, you don't want to give an inch. In fact, you're prepared to defend your turf because you feel quite territorial about something

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

3					5			8
					9	1		
	9	6				4		
7	8							
			7	2	4			
							9	6
		3				5	1	
		1	8					
2			6					3

Difficulty Level ★★★★

9/15

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

9	3	1	6	2	4	5	8	7
5	7	8	1	3	9	2	6	4
4	6	2	8	7	5	9	1	3
2	4	7	5	8	6	1	3	9
3	1	9	2	4	7	8	5	6
8	5	6	9	1	3	7	4	2
7	9	5	4	6	1	3	2	8
6	8	3	7	5	2	4	9	1
1	2	4	3	9	8	6	7	5

Difficulty Level ★★★

CLOTHES by Rajo Laurel

Fab couture, chic dwellings

THE INVITATION TO ONE OF Ayala Land Premier's biggest events of the year promised an evening of luxury, elegance and style—buzzwords that will always be truly associated with the brand of top-end residential projects from the country's inimitable real estate developer, Ayala Land.

As expected, Ayala Land Premier did not disappoint, as it once again set the bar for high living with the launch of the Manila Tower, the third and final installment of the landmark The Residences at Greenbelt condominium right in the heart of Makati and in the center of another Ayala Land icon, the Greenbelt lifestyle center.

These same buzzwords described the elaborately themed party that gave guests and prospective denizens of The Residences at Greenbelt an exclusive preview of the universe of high living that awaits them through a fusion of fashion, food and entertainment.

Not even heavy rains prevented Manila's business elite and leading society figures from attending the exclusive, ultra-chic party held at the al fresco dining area of Greenbelt 2. A red-carpet runway weaved its way through the length of the venue for a spectacular show featuring the exclusive fashion line of top couturier Rajo Laurel.

The parade of casual and high couture fashions were inspired by the '50s era: slim pants and trench coats, tuxedo shirts and flowing dresses with matching opera coats, in dazzling hues like fuchsia, turquoise and gold.

The collection was stylish and rich, perfectly capturing the concept of the "high life" at The Residences at Greenbelt. And it was designed specifically and exclusively for Ayala Land, underscoring Greenbelt's position as the metro's fashion mecca.

After enjoying the festivities, guests who reserved their future abode at The Residences at Greenbelt that night received a custom set of gift certificates by Ayala Land Premier from various Greenbelt establishments. The certificates were a way of giving a foretaste of the Greenbelt lifestyle experience—a diversity of dining, entertainment and shopping activities offered by the country's only lifestyle center.

Call 7287000, e-mail ask@ayalaland-premier.com or visit www.ayalaland-premier.com. New model units are available for viewing at its showroom at the third level of Greenbelt 3.

Discounts for male fashionista

ROBINSONS DEPARTMENT STORE (RDS) acknowledges that men are getting increasingly fashion-conscious with its month-long "All About Men" promotion. Ongoing until Sept. 30, "All About Men" offers discounts of up to 50 percent on selected items. Every P500 worth of purchase gives shoppers a chance to win one of five home entertainment systems. RDS is also holding an "All-Out" sale this month of selected houseware, ladies and children's wear, accessories, toys health and beauty products.

GOINGS ON

WORKSHOP. A workshop on basic counseling, to be facilitated by Dr. Randy Dellosa, counselor and psychotherapist, will be held Sept. 15, 22, 29 and Oct. 6, 13, 7-10 p.m., at Times Square Building, Unit 302, 3F, 57 Examiner corner Times Sts., QC. Call 0906-4742505, 4156529 and 4157964.

IRIDOLOGY SEMINAR. The latest scientific method of looking into the iris of the eyes, Comprehensive Iridology, will be discussed Sept. 25-29 at the Philippine Institute of Iridology and Naturopathic Sciences, 306 Grace Bldg., West Greenhills, Ortigas Avenue. Call 7241093 or 0920-9073075.

TOURISM FAIR. Festival Supermall presents Sights and Flavors, a travel and tourism fair, Sept. 18-27, at the 2/L Carousel Court. The fair is a joint project of the mall and the Department of Tourism. Lucky patrons can avail of Cebu Pacific's "Go Fares" or win free trips and hotel accommodations courtesy. Call 8503514. Festival Supermall is at the Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa City.

DENIM/TEES FEST. The annual Denim and T-shirt Festival is being held until Sept. 30 at Sta. Lucia East Department Store. Lucky 100 shoppers can win a VCD player each instantly with a minimum P500 single purchase receipt of any men's and ladies' denim and tees. Call 6815181.

SEMINARS. CFS Creative Training Management will hold the following seminars: "Leadership Skills (Effective People Management)," Sept. 27-28, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; "Handling Stress & Pressure at Work," Sept. 30, 1-5 p.m.; "Time Management," Sept. 30, 9 a.m.-12 nn; "Effective Business Communication," Oct. 12-13, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Speaker is Gerry Romualdez. Call 8697960, 8232358, 8234825 or e-mail cfscreative@yahoo.com.ph

HALLWAY SALE. Farmers Plaza at the Araneta Center is holding "Hallway All the Way" sale, Sept. 8-10, 15-17 and 22-24. Shoppers can get up to 70-percent discount on apparel and accessories from top brands including Penshoppe, Bench, Rusty Lopez, Page, B-club, Jag, Dickies, Leaveland. Hallways will be filled with an array of beauty products, gift items, fashion accessories and hard-to-find collectibles.

FREEBIES. Dupé is giving away a key chain until Sept. 30 for every single purchase of two pairs of rubber sandals. A product of Brazil, Dupé uses the penta polymer technology for better impact absorption and a softer feel. Dupé rubber sandals, available in a wide range of colors and designs, cost P295-P595 a pair. Get Dupé at Landmark; SM department store in Mall of Asia; Shoe Salon outlets in Mall of Asia, Robinsons Galleria, Shangri-La Mall, Podium, Glorietta, Rockwell, Metro East, City Walk 2, Alabang Town Center and Gateway Mall; and in Robinsons Department Store in Festival Mall, Galleria and Ermita.

COOKING DEMOS. Monterey Meatshop will hold its MVP on Wheels cooking demonstrations Sept. 16, 3-5 p.m., at the Samaral Restaurant Reception Hall, National Highway, Calamba City. Featuring Mobile Kusina chef Rachelle Santos and hosted by SMC All-Star Joey Sta. Maria and Ed Cordero, it will present easy-to-do recipes using Monterey products and offer helpful tips. Registration starts at 2 p.m. Special gift packs await the first 60 registrants. Call 633-MEAT (6328) or 0917-533-(MEAT).

ANNIVERSARY. The Christian Family Movement of the Philippines, a lay religious movement and organization, marks its 50th anniversary Oct. 21-22. A Eucharistic celebration with Bishop Angel Lagdameo will open on Oct. 21 at the GSIS Auditorium the two-day celebration. In the evening, a get-together will be held at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel. Registration forms are available at the national office, CFM Nazareth Homes, N. Domingo St. cor. Brgy. Horseshoe Drive, Horseshoe Village, Quezon City. Call 7246747, fax 4122738.

SHOPPING EXPO. Exhibitors and entrepreneurs are invited to join GMA Kapuso Network's Sixth Noel Discovery Bazaar and Christmas Shopping Expo 2006, Nov. 24-26 and Dec. 21-23, at the World Trade Center. Call Cut Unlimited 6870654, 6873292 or e-mail cut@pldtdsl.net.

ANTIQUE SHOW. The Prime Asia Trade Planners and Convention Organizers (Patepco) is holding the biggest antique show until Oct. 2 at the Greenhills Shopping Complex in San Juan, Metro Manila. The organization is composed of about 80 antique collectors and sellers.

SEXUALITY WEBSITE. Sexual psychologist Dr. Margarita Holmes will launch her website on Sept. 19 at Claro M. Recto Hall at the University of the Philippines Faculty Center, Diliman Campus. The site, www.margaritaholmes.com, will discuss sexuality and other concerns.

Asian studies meeting at UP

THE ASIAN CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF the Philippines-Diliman, is holding its 2nd AC Graduate Students' Conference on Sept. 15-16 at the Bulwagang Sala'am, Romulo Hall. The annual conference brings together people engaged in the study of Asia Pacific and the Philippines. This year's theme is "The Philippines and Asia Pacific Region in the 21st Century." Congressman Nereus O. Acosta will be keynote speaker. Call 9270909 or 0920-9135451 or e-mail acgradcon@yahoo.com.

Bringing the spa to your home

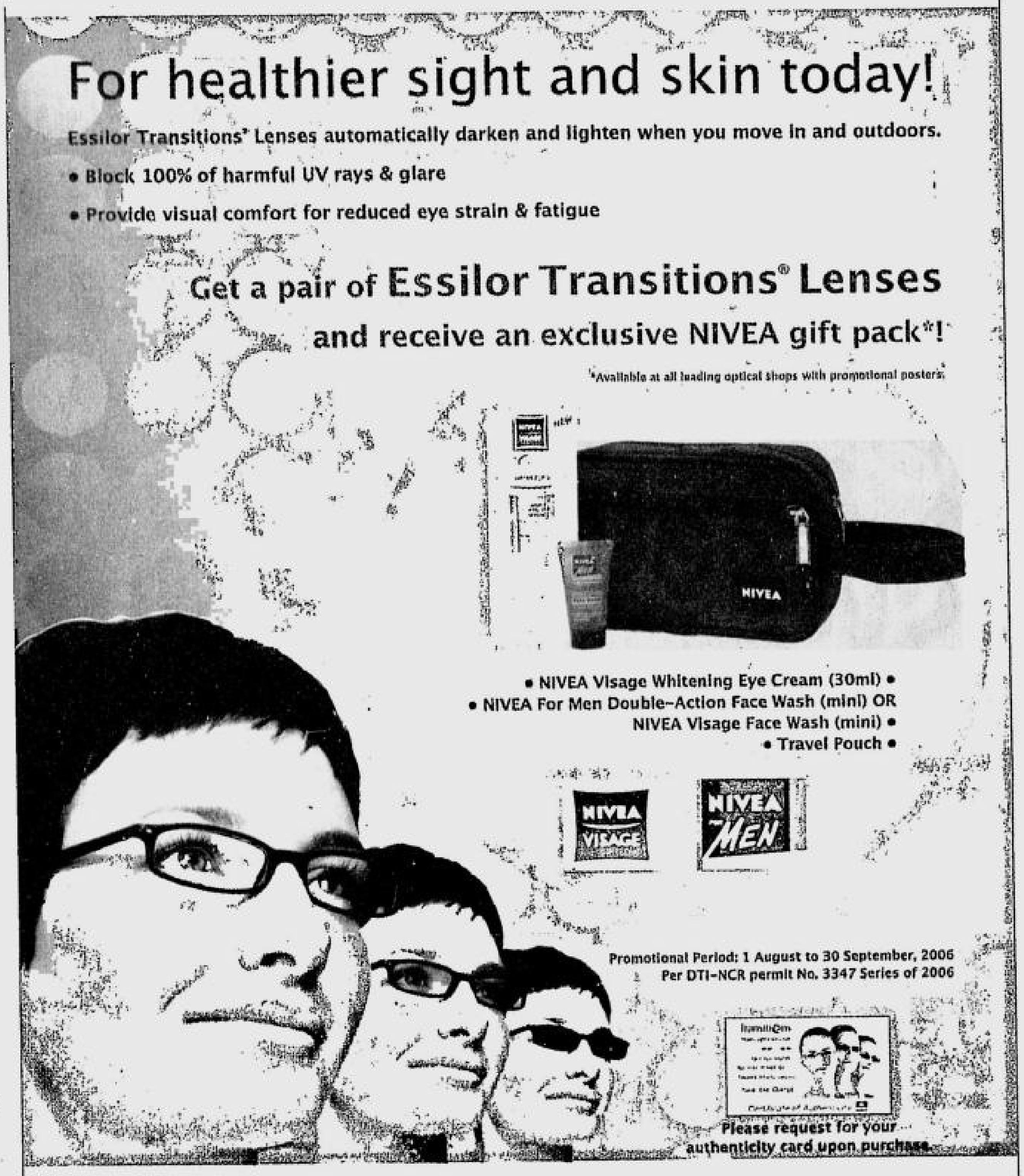
From page F1

of his disciples is the culture historian Ambeth Ocampo. Ambeth loved Abe, he was Abe's prodigy. In Jaro, Iloilo, a few weekends ago, Ambeth told me something that perhaps you didn't know. Ambeth keeps a daily journal—you may know that. He turns it over to the UP archives for safekeeping—regularly. That's a daily entry involving people—you and me—and events, experiences, insights he comes upon.

Therefore, it's safe to presume that that bitchy remark you gave yesterday will be read by your children's children—if they still know how to read and use the print-medium library by then.

I don't know that Ambeth is a cyberspace creature. I dread to imagine Ambeth the blogger.

Transitions® Lenses & NIVEA



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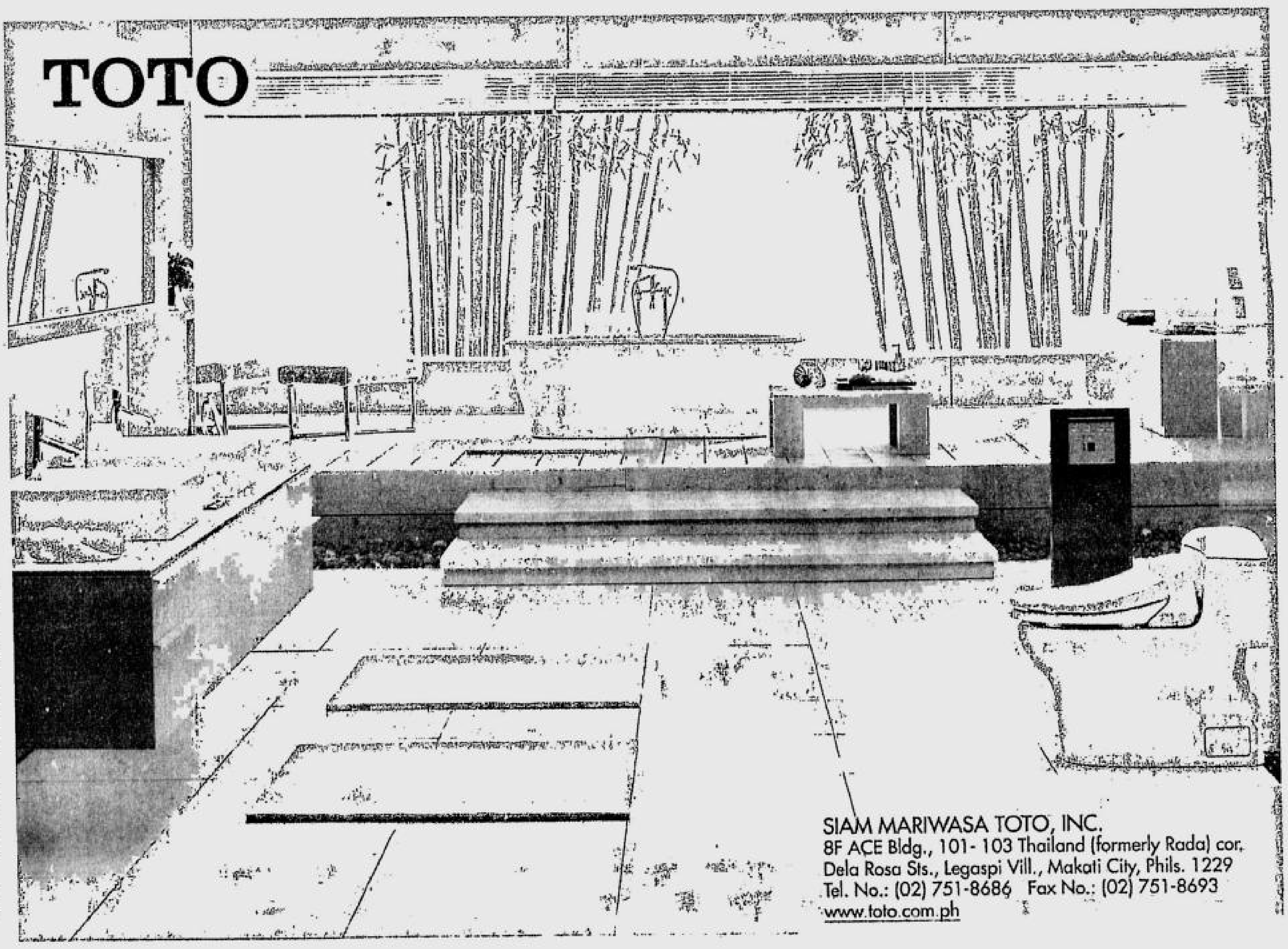

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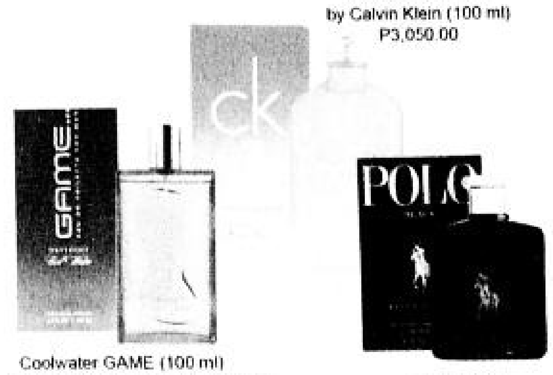
all about MEN

at Robinsons Department Store



CK One Summer
by Calvin Klein (100 ml)
P3,050.00

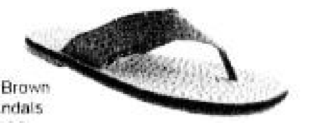
Coolwater GAME (100 ml)
makers of Davidoff Coolwater fragrances
P3,850.00

Polo Black
by Ralph Lauren (125 ml)
P4,900.00

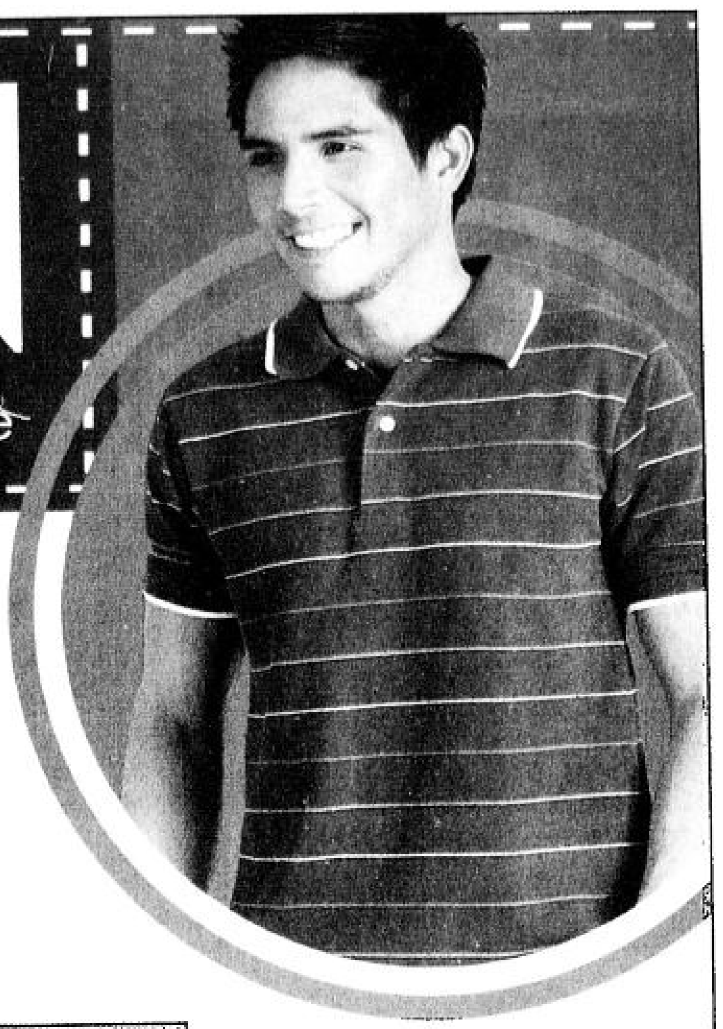
Relic Stainless
Steel Watch
P4,790.00

Mario D' boro
Black Loafers
P899.75

Ith Brown
Topsiders
P1,799.00



Caterpillar Brown
Men's Sandals
P1,899.00



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Cadbury
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September 15 to October 31
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A BRAND NEW
TOYOTA
INNOVA
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PLUS!
a cha
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1
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SALE

- Get an Innova and Sinski Scooter Coupon for every P300 purchase
- Chocolate purchases should be exclusive to Cadbury.
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Per DTI-NCR Permit # 3176 Series of 2006

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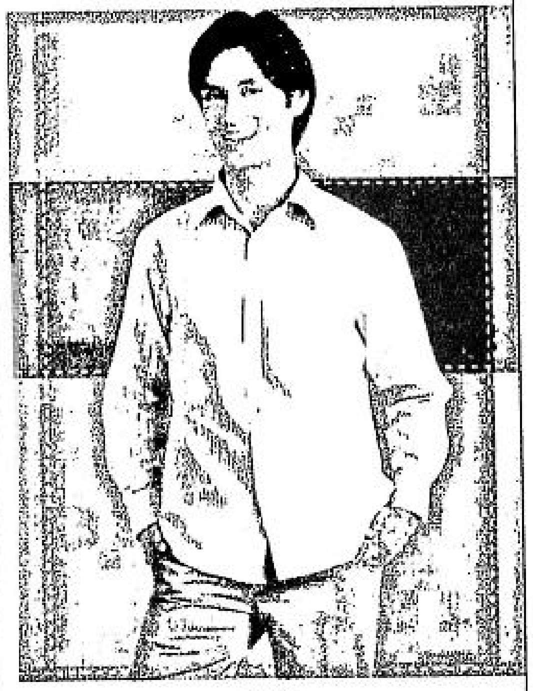
Ongoing until September 30, 2006, **All About Men** features an extensive selection of the country's hottest brands and up-to-the-minute styles that answer the sartorial needs of discerning male shoppers. Consider these: shirts, polos, tees, trousers, slacks, jeans, cargo pants, dress shoes, sneakers, slip-ons, flip flops, undergarments, sunglasses, belts, blazers, jackets, colognes and watches. The choices are wide and the prices, very affordable! Men will find everything they need for corporate wear, formal occasions and for casual outings.

And the best part is that **Robinsons Department Store's All About Men** offers discounts of up to 50% on selected items. While shopping, you also get the chance to win one of five Home Entertainment Systems for every P500 worth of purchase of men's apparel, shoes, accessories, undergarments and active wear. And if you want to know more great buys, get a free **All About Men** catalog in the September issues of T3 and Men's Health magazines.

While at **Robinsons Department Store,** check out the ongoing **Clearance Sale** this September. An amazing range of merchandise - from houseware, ladies' and children's wear, toys, accessories and health and beauty products - is available at substantial discounts. Don't miss out on this great offer – in all **Robinsons Department Store** branches nationwide.



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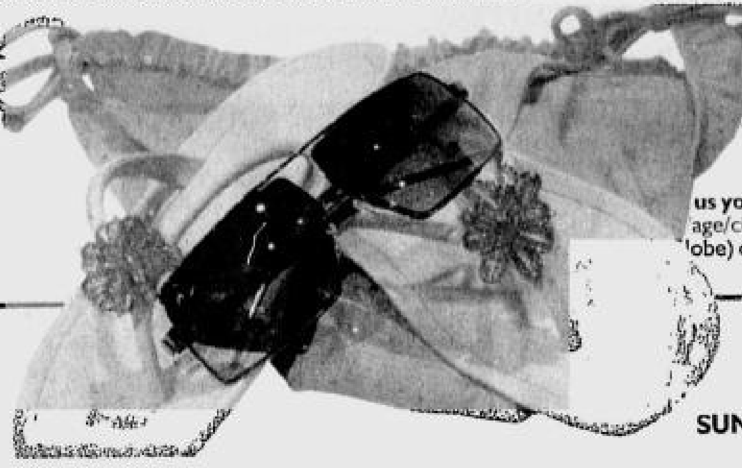


SUN worshipper

Brit-savvy visuals

By Cheche V. Moral

SUNITA RAMCHANDANI SAYS she always asks her patients why they buy 30 pairs of shoes and only a pair of eyeglasses, when people look at their face and not at their feet. The optometrist finds this puzzling and, perhaps, even absurd.

However, there seems to be a shifting trend on the subject of eyewear purchase. While Filipinos usually bought only one really expensive designer pair and used it for two to three years before getting a replacement, Lachman Chatlani says consumers now tend to get two to three styles from the low- to the mid-priced labels, and use them alternately.

The root of the shoe craze—fashion, that is—seems to be catching on with eyewear.

Chatlani, Ramchandani's brother, is the head of the family-owned Hassarams, local licensee of popular eyewear brands like YSL, Lancel, Charriol, Guess, Mossimo, Police. The Chatlanis also have a homegrown eyewear brand called Spyder. Last week the company introduced the eyewear line of the British brand Ted Baker.

"Consumers are now going for new brands," Chatlani explains. "They want to try something different."

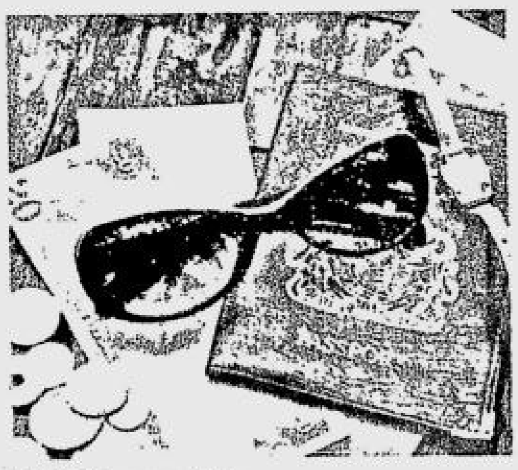
The price point, he adds, is a strong consideration as much as the design. "A few years ago red frames didn't sell. That's no longer the case. People also want value for money."

With the arrival of Ted Baker, Chatlani believes the brand will fill a void in a market that demands affordable stylish eyewear but with the prestige of a designer label. It must be perfect timing since brands that were very popular in the Philippines in the 1990s, like YSL and Lancel, are now perceived by younger consumers as "old." Ted Baker retails from P3,000-P5,000 a pair at select optical shops.

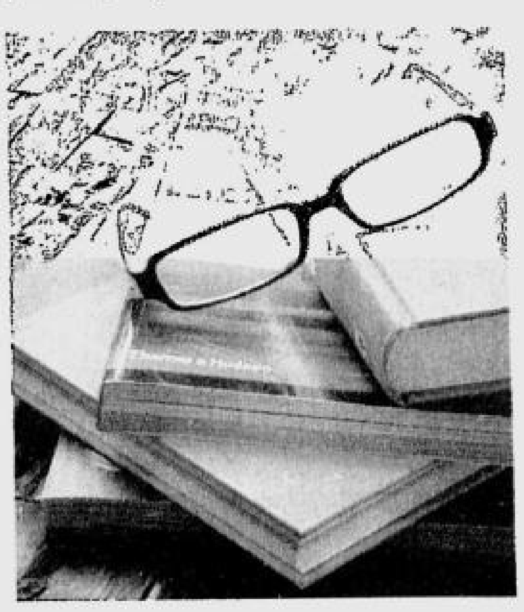
Ted Baker was founded in the United Kingdom in 1988, and is known for contemporary men's and women's apparel. The brand has grown through the years to include fashion accessories, with stores across the UK, the United States, France, Australia and soon in Hong Kong. Its eyewear line was introduced three years ago.

The look of Ted Baker is "young and very British." Its collection of sunglasses and optical frames for men and women is a mix of modern retro, made of materials like acetate and metals including the ultra-light titanium.

The acetate frames are likely to catch the fancy of the trendier segment of the market, with colors ranging from bright reds to blues to tortoise. Classic aviator sunglasses come in gunmetal, black, brown or bronze. Some styles have rims with a contrast-color shaft. Others have shafts that are wrapped in embossed faux leather, encrusted with crystals or etched with retro patterns.



JET-SET perspective



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TOP ARCHITECT Anton Mendoza and one of the hostesses, Maripi Muscat

SHANGRI-LA Makati's Joy Wassmer and jewelry maven Linda Oledan

HONOREE Lorrie Reynoso, hostess Carla Tengco and Choy Cojuangco

FLORA Silk president Mike Sandoval, top restaurateur Cecille Reynoso and Southern starmaker Joji Dingcong

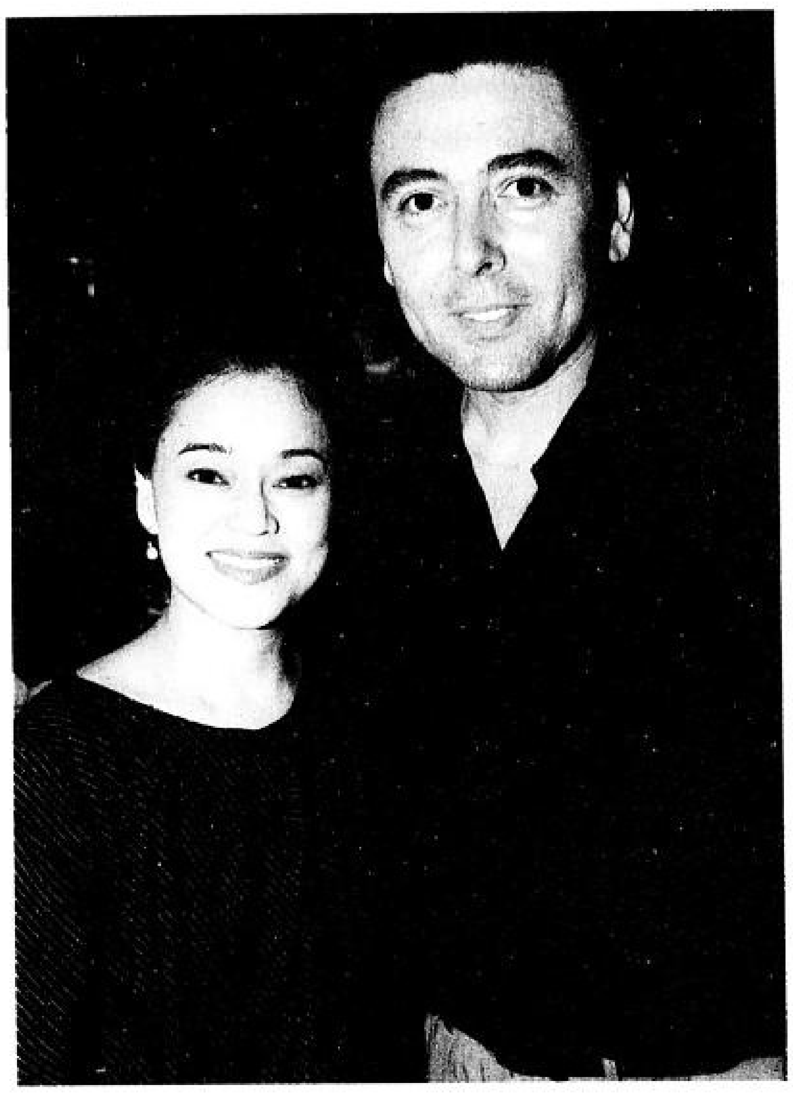
KAREN Santos and multitalented businessman Al Tengco

ACE photographer Alex Van Hagen

OUR PAL Pepper Teehankee

SOUTHERN gal Diding Jison and Maryann Lumen

Highly anticipated wedding; Lisa Araneta goes back to first love


SOON-TO-WED lovers. Rustan's prime asset, Rhoda Campos, and *el simpatico* businessman Vince Aldanese

HOTSHOT businessmen. Juan Leonor, Paing Hechanova; (standing) Pong Salud and Mon Tantoco

CHARITY-ORIENTED women Sylvia Lacson, Chit Dee and Baby Magsaysay

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

ONE OF OUR TOWN'S *TRÈS* ELIGIBLE bachelorettes has finally found her prince charming after the getting-to-know-you stage of two years, *palanggas*.

Rustan's vice president for cosmetics division, the brilliant **Rhoda Campos**, daughter of mega businessman **Rudy Campos** and **Josie Ocubillo C.**, will give her "I do" to *el guapo y simpatico* businessman **Vince Aldanese**, son of Spanish Embassy chancery officer Pilar Aldanese.

The wedding, superbly being organized by **Jarlath Lynch**, **Lia Bernardo** and **Cecille Lilles**, will take place Oct. 6, 5:30 p.m.

The couple has decided a *tres* simple and intimate affair, with only immediate kin and several close pals as invitees.

Rhoda C., I'm sure, will be a radiant bride in an elegant **Inno Sotto** wedding gown.

Renowned photographer **Alex Van Hagen** will be doing the wedding album for posterity, dahlings.

The dinner reception will be at the chic Quezon Ballroom of the upscale Makati Shangri-La.

Can't wait to witness one of our town's well-loved personalities tying that now-and-forever love-knot. Isn't love grand, *palanggas*?

Back to lawyering

Brilliant **Liza Araneta**, formerly based in New York and now the first lady of Laoag as wife of Ilocos Norte's Gov. **Ferdinand Marcos Jr.**, has finally gone back to her first love—practicing law—after several years of being a mother to three wonderful boys and teaching several years at the Northwestern College of Law in Laoag, *palanggas*.

Lisa obtained her law degree at the Ateneo de Manila and then went to New York where she resided for several years while simultaneously working and taking masteral units in criminal procedure at NYU, *palanggas*.

And now, at last, Liza is a founding partner of the Marcos, Ochoa, Serapio and Tan law firm, with offices at 30/F, Tycoon Center, Pearl Drive, Ortigas.

Without batting an eyelash, I consider Liza A. Marcos a super-asset to the law profession, *palanggas*.

Get-togethers for Lorrie

BRILLIANT lawyer Liza Araneta Marcos

When New York-based, top-of-the-line international culinary instructress and chef **Lorrie Reynoso** breezed into town from the Big Apple, her friends hosted several get-togethers in her honor.

First to honor her arrival was her super pal, fashion plate **Marivic Madrigal Vazquez**, who hosted a get-together for her at Shangri-La's elegant Red Restaurant, *palanggas*. Those who came were Lorrie's closest pals, including *moi*.

The honoree's favorite champagne, Clicquot and Avelinos, was served. The superb wine complemented the excellently prepared dinner menu, chosen by the hotel's cyber-smart **Joy Wassmer**.

The piece d' resistance was the to-die-for Duo of Foie Gras, Pan-Seared Foie Gras with Lavender Glaze, Bitter Greens with Washington State Red Apple Chips, Créme Brûlèe of Foie Gras; Red Lobster Sample and Bisque, Consomme and Lobster Minestrone; Roasted Chilean Sea Bass with red tomato and lemongrass broth, eggplant caviar.

Also hosting a dinner for Lorrie were mega-businessman **Al Tengco** and **Johnny Velasquez**, with **Maripi Muscat** and **Carla Reyes Tengco**, at the fabulous and in-demand Japanese restaurant Nanohama, dahlings.

Nanohama's high-caliber Japanese chefs, **Matsuo** and **Hasegawa**, have logged over 50 years of excellent Japanese cooking. That night, the chefs were at their best! As always, very smashing were their assorted sashimi (*hamachi*, the popular *toro*, *kampachi*, Japanese clams, *uni*); *harumaki* spicy tuna and the must-have *harumaki* spicy *kani*.

There were also lobster *miso* and my definite favorite vegetarian dish, *gyoza*, which **Cecille Reynoso**, **Pepper Teehankee** and *moi* had four servings of. We also enjoyed the grilled scallops in *uni* sauce.

Another super favorite was the to-die-for *wagyu* rice, which one of the guests had three bowls of, dahlings, plus the melt-in-your-mouth *wayu tepan* and everyone's can't-say-no-to, the fresh Lobster Tepan.

With Nanohama importing super-fresh Japanese seafood at least twice a week, how can they go wrong, *palanggas*?

Check out this hot Japanese resto in town!

Nanohama is at G/F, Le Grand Condominium, 130 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati. It's open daily for lunch and dinner. Since the place is always packed, I would recommend that reservations be made, *palanggas*. Call 8922011 or 8922012.

For Loi et al. with love

It was one exciting get-together that Manille's chic dinner bunch wouldn't have missed for the world, *palanggas*. It was superbly hosted by top hostesses **Nene Leonor** and **Chit Salud** for their dear pals, Sen. **Loi Ejercito**, **Mely Concepcion H.** and **Paing Hechanova**, and **Justa** and **Mon Tantoco**, no less.

The excellent dinner was held at the world-class Shang Palace of the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. There was much catching-up to do for the friends, with extra spice coming in the form of gossip, dahlings, while the invitees dug into the superbly chosen menu by talented executive chef **Tsang Chiu Lun**, *palanggas*.

Help for PGH

If there is a hospital that deserves help from anyone, it is the Philippine General Hospital (PGH), *palanggas*. PGH got a super boost through the magnanimous support of the Senate Spouses led by Bicolana beauty **Mila Drilon**, adorable **Kate Gordon**, **Alma Flavier**, Rep. **Cynthia Villar** and **Lourdes Pimentel**, who committed to renovate and upgrade not one but four charity wards (medical and surgical) for the next months!

They have also committed to renovate the Pediatric, Psychiatry and Orthopedic units before year's end.

Zonta International Area 5 presidents, led by charity- and civic-oriented gals such as **Betsy Tenchavez**, **Terry Palacios**, **Maritess Pineda**, **Rose Celis**, **Nanee Monje**, **Lita Gil**, **Malu Cortez**, **Menchu Henson**, **Minette Fajardo** and **Flery Jimenez**, have linked up with the Senate Spouses and donated 400 bedsheets and pillowcases to complement the newly renovated wards. They also plan to landscape the surrounding areas.

"This partnership between the Senate Spouses and the Zonta ladies signifies hope for the underprivileged who will benefit from healthy and clean surroundings," said Betsy T., dahlings.

Yes, *palanggas*, if you pray hard enough, your prayers will always be answered.

THE GANG includes Fe Ng, Brenda Reyes and Fe Rodriguez.

GUESTS Evie Costa, honorary Togo consul; Roi Phillips and Fanny Blanco

HONOREES at the dinner affairs: Mely Concepcion Hechanova, popular Sen. Loi Ejercito and guest Ruby Tuason. Standing: honoree Justa Tantoco with hostesses and civic-oriented ladies of substance Chit Salud and Nene Leonor

ZONTA gals donate 400 bedsheets and pillowcases to the Senate Spouses for their PGH project. Terry Palacios, Maritess Pineda, Lita Gil, Rose Celis, Betsy Tenchavez, Nanee Monje, Mila Drilon, Rep. Cynthia Villar, Lourdes Pimentel, PGH director Carmelo Alfiler and Dr. Melfred Fernandez

Watch this, watch that

THE WATCH REPUBLIC PHILOSOPHY is for everyone to have a wardrobe of watches. With the sheer number of styles and brands, one can change one's watches as one changes clothes and shoes.

Newness counts at Watch Republic. The stocks are constantly changing—evolving in response to fashions and tastes.

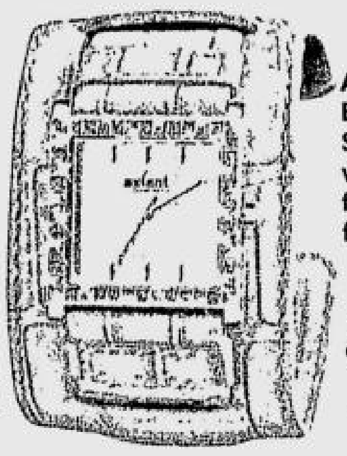
The hot new brands in the US and in Europe can be found at Watch Republic.

The shop has such classics as Giordano, Axis, Armitron and Relic; urban fashion pieces such as Axcent of Scandinavia, Morgan de Toi, FCUK, Police and Michael Kors; and sporty types such as Adidas Performance, Speedo and Timberland.

Watch Republic carries all brands to cater to everyone's budget, from P1,500 to P10,000. Each watch comes with an international warranty.

Watch Republic has just opened three more branches—at SM Mall of Asia, SM North Edsa The Block and SM City Cebu.

Other Watch Republic shops are at the Power Plant Mall Rockwell, SM Fairview, Market! Market!, SM Southmall, SM Pampanga, SM Batangas and Limketkai Mall Cagayan.



AXCENT'S Broadband Sparkling Chic watch is all feminine and flirtatious.

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RELIC'S stainless steel men's watches are a real steal with their handsome design.

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The Timex Night Light of a watchlight now comes in different funky colors—and even smaller sizes. It also has fashion, sports and youth versions.

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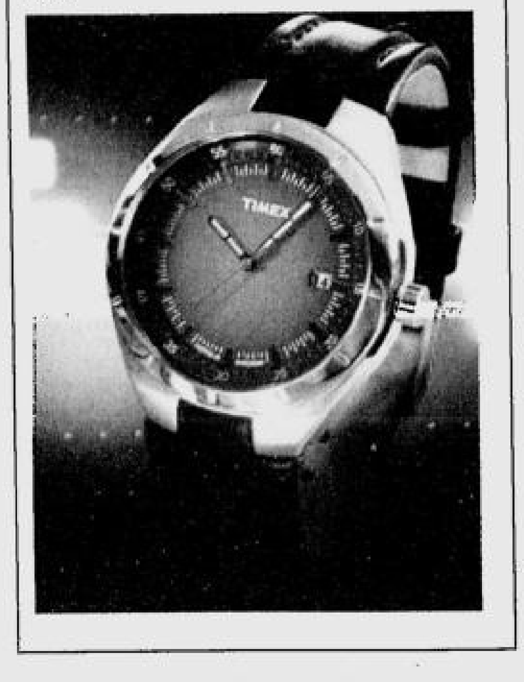
Timex is available at Timex stores and kiosks and at all Watch Republic outlets.

SMALL, fashionable, formal—and still readable at night, thanks to the Timex Indiglo, now on the fashion watch lines as well



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*See supermarket brochures for the list of freebies.
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- Araneta Square, Caloocan City
- Banilad Town Center, Cebu
- Eastwood City, Libis
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ENTERTAINMENT

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JANET SUSAN R. NEPALES

"PINOY KAMI." (From left) Mel Chionglo, Allen Dizon, Ruben Nepales, Ricky Lee, Tyron Perez

INSIDE

- 'Pop Star Kids' finals today, telecast tomorrow /H2
- A third Ninoy film in the works, with Cory's nod /H4

Skipping Brad P for Gina P in Toronto film festival

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

TORONTO, ONTARIO—Call us crazy: We turned down tickets to sit right behind **Brad Pitt** at a gala screening last Saturday evening.

Instead of watching Brad's "Babel," we opted to be with the Filipino contingent at the showing of **Mel Chionglo's** "Twilight Dancers," one of the Philippines' two entries to the ongoing Toronto International Film Festival (TIFF) in this beautiful Canadian city.

But we're getting ahead of our coverage story.

We left LA Friday morning in time to make it to the screening of **Russell Crowe's** "A Good Year." After the plane ride and the showing of the Provence-set romantic comedy that reunites Russell with "Gladiator" director **Ridley Scott,** we were ready to hit the sack. But an invitation was waiting at the hotel concierge desk for a post-gala screening party of "Volver" at the Chanel boutique. Who said we were sleepy?

Stunning

Fiery flamenco dancers kept us from falling all over mannequins wearing Chanel gowns worth more than our house. "Volver" star **Penelope Cruz** was stunning in a purple gown. Her director **Pedro Almodovar** was in high spirits.

Saturday morning, we began our daily walk to the nearby Four Seasons Hotel for a series of interviews with the stars (we'll write more lengthily in future columns about these). Fans crowded the hotel driveway to catch a glimpse of **Demi Moore** or Russell Crowe.

Papa Ashton

Demi was with husband **Ashton Kutcher** who was promoting his two films, the action-drama "The Guardian," and the animated "Open Season." Ashton looked shower-fresh, but seemed to have just woken up. He perked up considerably when asked how he was guarding Demi's three daughters with **Bruce Willis,** "who are all in that boy stage."

Ashton paid the supreme compliment to our next interview subject, **Kevin Costner,** saying his "Guardian" co-star was one of only

SKIPPING/ H4

We passed up on a seat right behind the actor to see 2 RP entries

Soon, Indie Sine for digital films

By Marinel R. Cruz

INDIE SINE, A MOVIE THEATER devoted to the screening of digital films and managed by the Independent Filmmakers Cooperative of the Philippines (IFCP) opens soon at Robinsons Galleria.

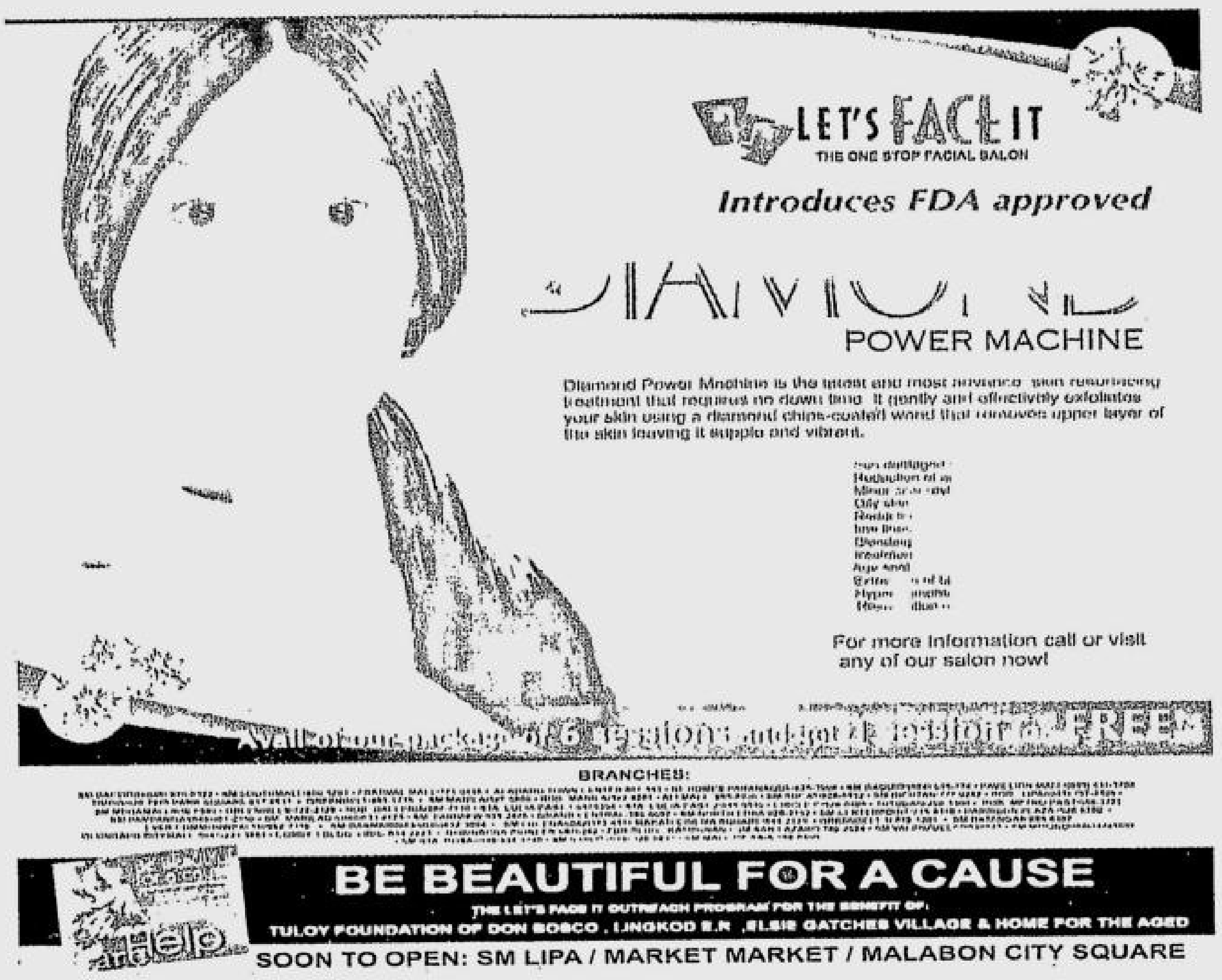
IFCP made this announcement on Monday during a conference at the Quezon City mall's Cinema 7.

The newly formed coop is jointly owned and managed by individuals involved in the production of indie movies.

Filmmaker Paolo Villaluna, IFCP board member, said the digital cinema is one of the cooperative's major programs. He said the program aims to give new filmmakers a venue for their works; and moviegoers, alternative choices. "The coop wishes to propagate independent cinema and make it sustainable. We believe the Pinoy audience is not only ready for this but actually anticipates it," he told INQUIRER Entertainment on Wednesday.

In his welcoming remarks during the pre-membership education seminar on Monday, acting IFCP chair Emman dela Cruz said

SOON/ H2



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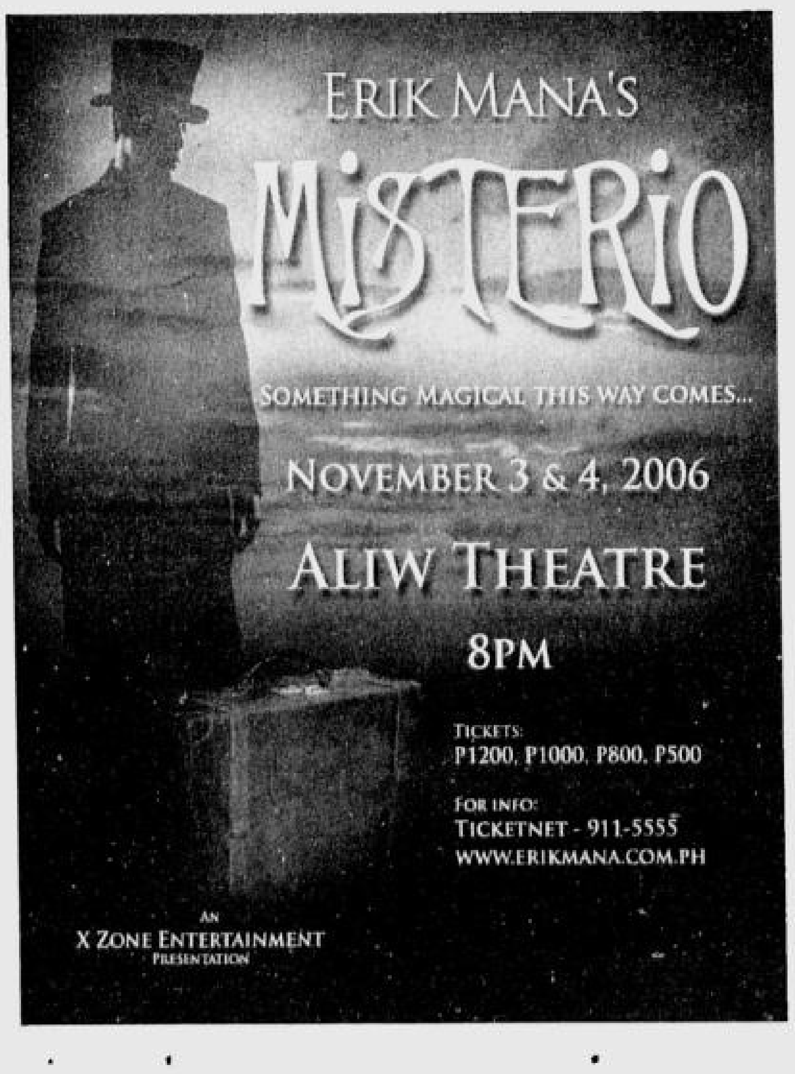

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YOUNG contenders for stardom (from left): Renzo Almario, Julie Anne San Jose, Vanessa Rangadhol, Rita Irigan and Pocholo Bismonte

‘Pop Sta finals to

By Nini Valera

THE DAUGHTER OF the late comedian Teroy de Guzman is living her childhood dream of stardom through her daughter Rita, a grand contender in this year's "Pop Star Kids," a talent search show on QTV11.

Rosanna Irigan told INQUIRER Entertainment on Monday that her father had not wanted her to follow in his footsteps, "no matter how much I wanted to be an *artista*. He said show biz was not the life he'd choose for his children."

Thus Rosanna, mother of three, extends all-out support to Rita. In all rehearsals, mall tours and styling appointments for the contenders, Rosanna has become Rita's shadow.

"[But] If I didn't see her determination, I wouldn't encourage her," Rosanna pointed out.

Rita, 10, is poised, *kikay* and very patient. She was dressed in party clothes when she dragged her mother to a long queue in front of the office of QTV11 several months ago to get an audition form. Now, mother and daughter are working as a team in the last leg of Rita's journey to stardom.

Early discovery

Julie Ann San Jose, 12, also relies on her mother, real estate broker Marivic, for support. It was Marivic, said Julie Ann, who discovered she could carry a tune.

"I always sang 'Habang May Buhay,' by Donna Cruz," she related. "That was the first song I learned, when I was 2 years old."

For the "Pop Star Kids" finals, she is set to sing Mariah Carey's "Can't Take That Away."

Pocholo Bismonte's mother, Rosemarie, said her son's winnings help her buy what he wants.

RAYMOND Red and Ricky D
in joining the Coop.

Soon, Indi

From page H1

the idea was sparked by a call he got from Robinsons about purchasing a digital projector.

Acting treasurer Dennis Marasigan told INQUIRER Entertainment, "[Dela Cruz] discussed possibilities with people he knew. They decided that the best way to come together was to form a coop."

Marasigan said IFCP aims to provide indie filmmakers services such as production, distribution, exhibition, promotion and marketing of films in whatever medium or format.

The coop plans to generate funds for filmmaking and related activities, and provide training and education programs in filmmaking.

Acting vice chair Chits Jimenez updated participants on the negotiations between the IFCP and the Quezon City government on the recently drafted proposal which involved the waiving of amusement taxes of digital films screened in the city and the launching of an independent film festival there.

Quoting Jimenez, Marasigan said the city government was studying

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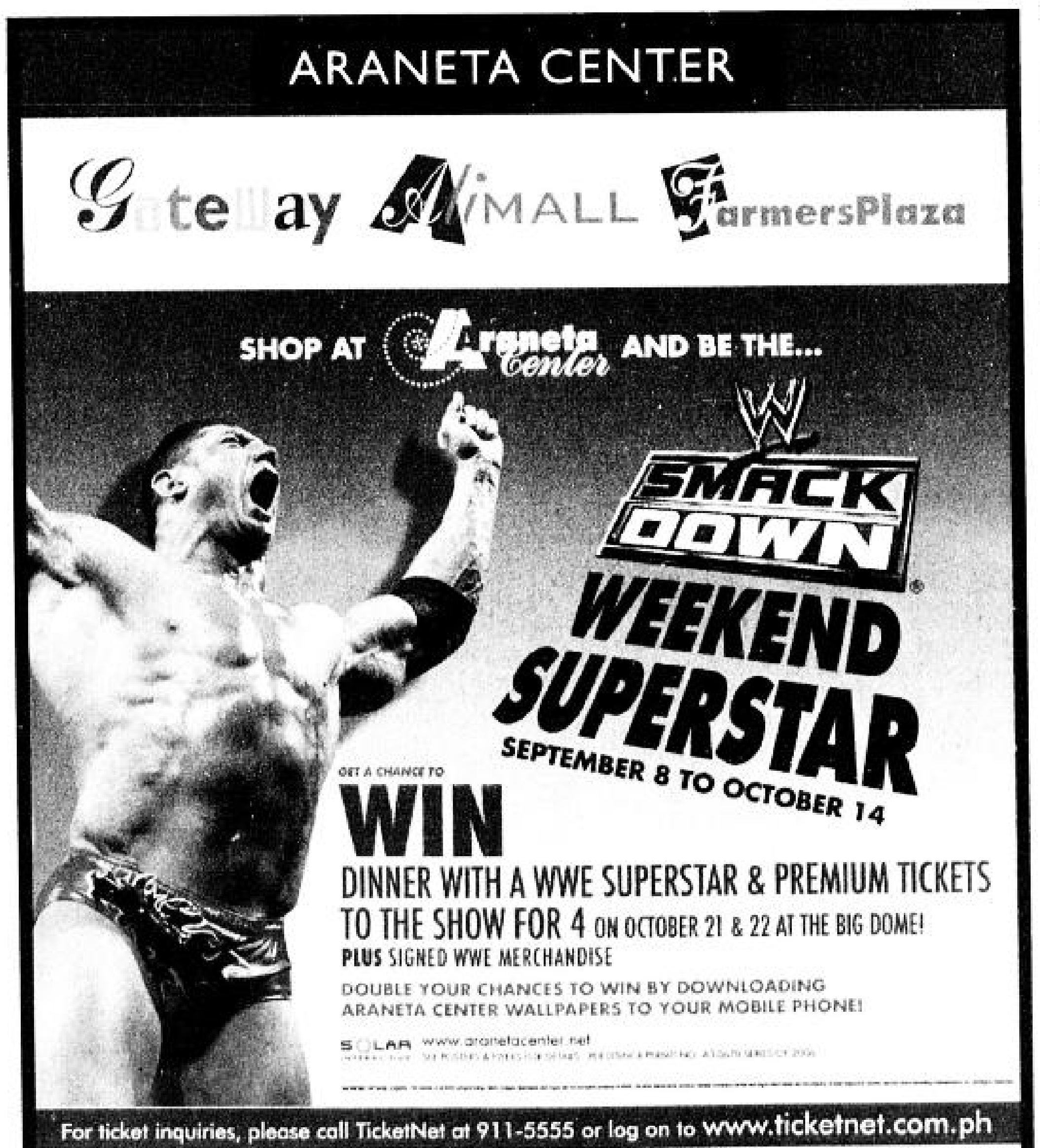

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THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50	THE WICKER MAN 1:05 / 3:15 / 5:25 / 7:35 / 9:45	PENGUIN, PENGUIN... 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30	JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE 1:55 / 4:15 / 6:35 / 8:55

ALIMALL 5

1 YOU ARE THE ONE 12:10 R4 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30	2 CRANK 12:00 R3 / 1:40 / 3:55 / 6:10 / 8:25	3 THE WICKER MAN 12:00 / 2:10 / 4:20 / 6:30 / 8:40
4 BINIBINING K 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30	5 PENGUIN, PENGUIN... 12:05 R2 / 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25	DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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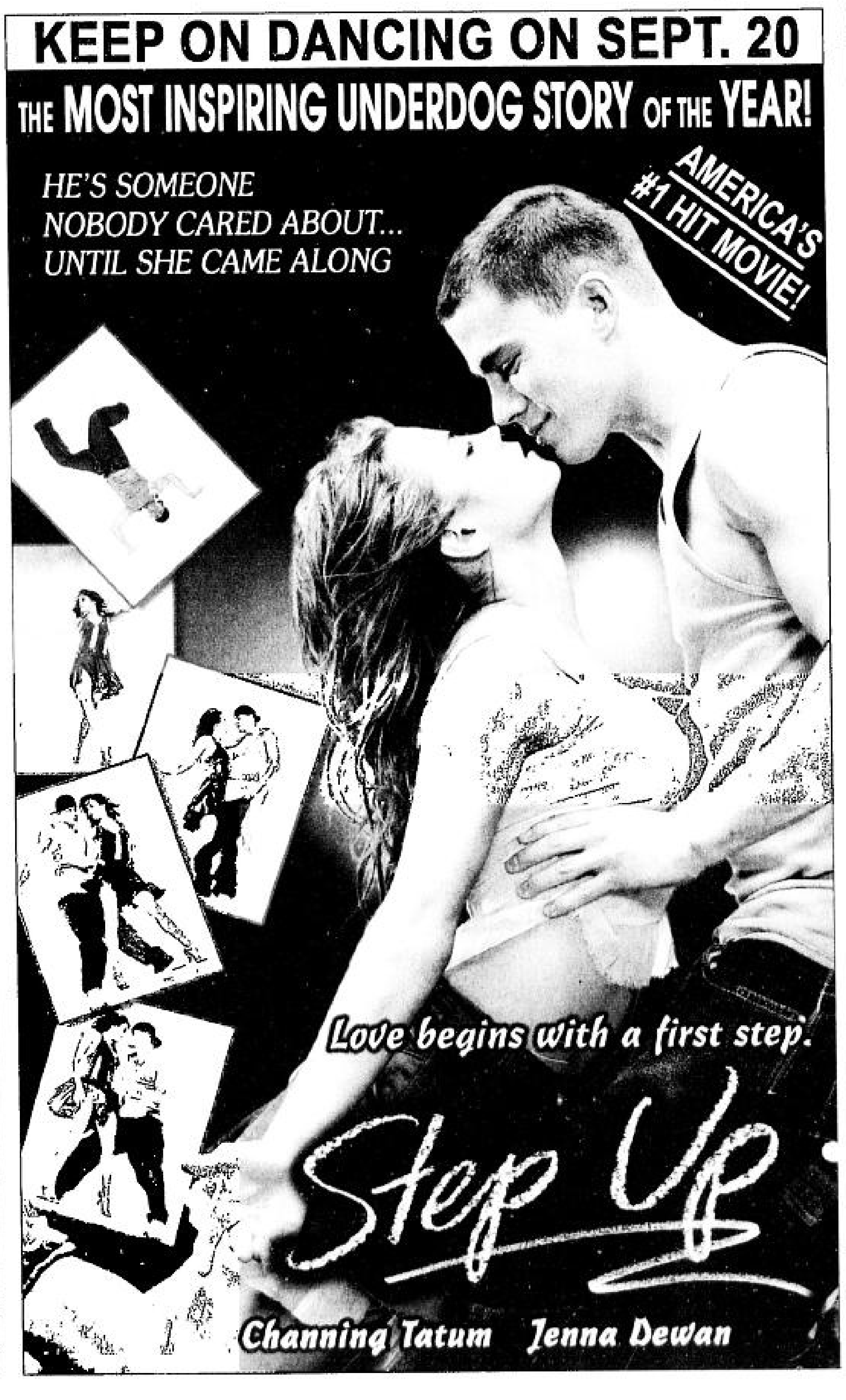

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Channing Tatum Jenna Dewan

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r Kids' night

"I'm not going to be a hypocrite and tell you that this is all about sharing his talent," Rosemarie said in Filipino. "The training he gets here is invaluable. But the money has come a long way in making him and his siblings happy."

Pocholo, 11, has bought toys for his brothers with the money he won from the contest. The rest of the money was placed in a bank, he said.

"It's okay if I don't win," he said in Filipino. "I already have a career."

Businessman Ramil Almario can buy his son Renzo, 10, all the toys that he wants. But he couldn't douse the boy's desire to be a star.

Grand escape

Ramil said Renzo and his grandfather had slipped out of the house one day to audition. This had gotten the boy into trouble as he had already been accepted as a contestant in another network's talent show. In the end, Ramil got his son out of the sticky situation.

"I'm happier in this contest," Renzo said in Filipino. "Even if I lose, I wouldn't have regrets for as long as the network gives me a career."

The daughter of an Indian diplomat based in London, England, Vanessa Rangadhol, 10, already knows how to take care of her voice. She avoids eating chocolates and drinking cold water.

"If I didn't join this contest, I wouldn't be enjoying my life now," she said in Filipino. "Here, I get to meet my favorite stars. I already have fans, and I'm also going to have my own CD."

The grand showdown of these five contenders will be held at the Mall of Asia tomorrow and telecast over QTV11 on Sunday. The show is hosted by Kyla and "Pinoy Pop Superstar" champion Gerald Santos.

vao have signified interest

COURTESY OF SAM KIYOUMARSI

e Sine …

the proposal.

According to indie director and IFCP member Cris Pablo, only parties which have completed the required pre-membership education training may join the coop. Requirements include the submission of a duly accomplished application form, payment of a membership fee of P1,000 and subscription to a minimum of five capital shares at P1,000 per share.

Applications must be approved by the Board of Directors.

"We're more than happy with the number and quality of people who attended the meeting. The participants received copies of the application form and brought them home to study it," Marasigan said. "The open forum was very lively. We considered this a sign the people were interested."

The IFCP, in cooperation with ABC 5, spearheaded the trip last week of 15 indie filmmakers to the island of Guimaras to shoot a 10-minute short film each about the oil spill in Western Visayas. This was to create awareness on the effects of the disaster and to raise funds for the islanders.

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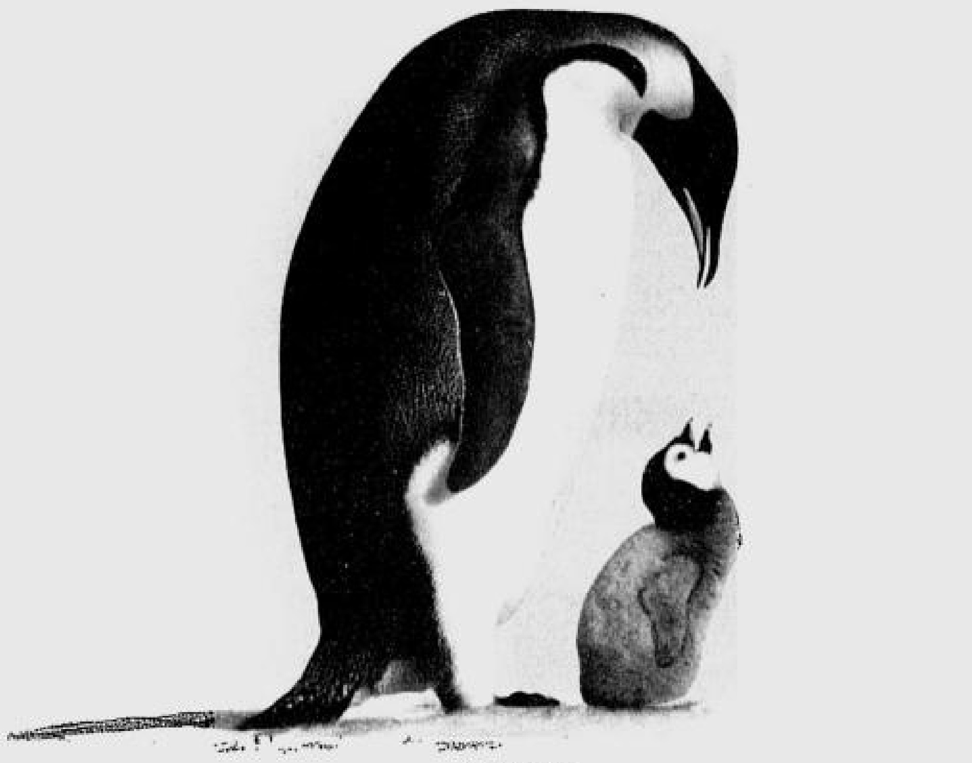

A FILM DIRECTED BY LUC JACQUET

Penguin, Penguin, Paano Ka Ginawa?

(March of the Penguins, 2005 Oscar® Award Winner, Best Documentary)

NARRATED BY SHARON CUNETA

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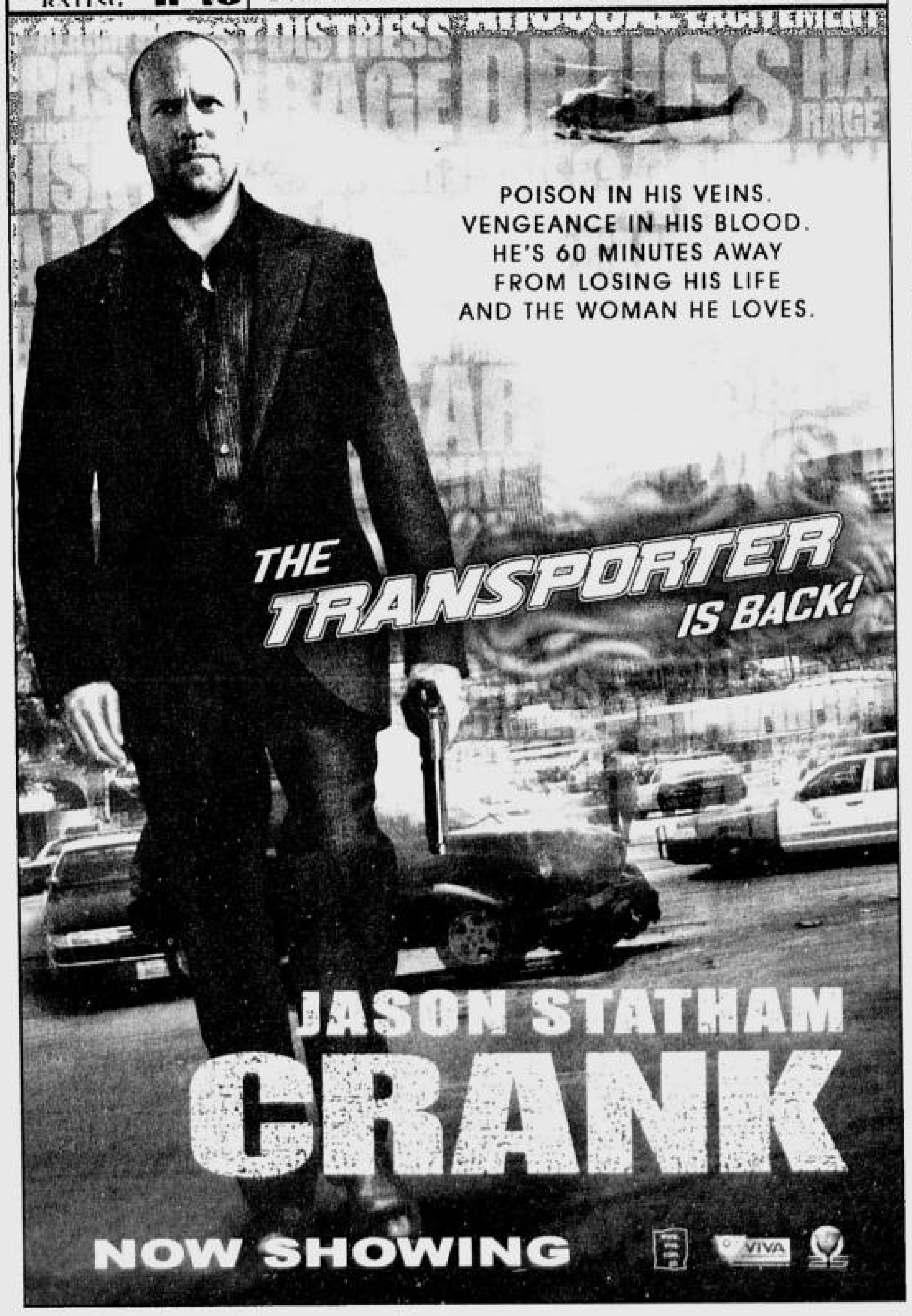

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GALLERIA 632-9116
1 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA • THX 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
2 YOU ARE THE ONE 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
3 SCOOP 1:25 3:35 5:45 7:55 10:00
4 CRANK 1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50
5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE 11:20 1:25 3:30 5:35 7:40 9:50
6 RESERVE
7 BINIBINING K 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
8 THE WICKER MAN 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
9 YOU, ME AND DUPREE 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
10 MONSTER HOUSE 1:00 3:20
PENGUIN, PENGUIN 5:30 7:35 9:40

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12
1 CRANK 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE 11:40 1:40 3:40
THE WICKER MAN 6:00 8:00 10:00
3 MONSTER HOUSE 12:00 2:00 4:00
PENGUIN, PENGUIN 6:10 8:00 9:50
4 YOU ARE THE ONE 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
6 BINIBINING K 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
7 SCOOP 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199
1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
2 YOU ARE THE ONE 1:15 3:50 6:25 9:00
3 THE WICKER MAN 12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00
4 MONSTER HOUSE 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:00
5 SCOOP 11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10
6 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10
7 CRANK 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
8 BINIBINING K 12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:10

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30
1 CRANK
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 BINIBINING K

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2578
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2 YOU ARE THE ONE
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4 BINIBINING K

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Chev Chelios is about to begin his morning with an unexpected wake-up call. Groggy, practically unable to move and with a heart that's barely beating, he hears the voice of thug Ricky Verona, who reveals Chev has been prisoned in his sleep and only has an hour to live.
As it turns out, Chev is a hit man who freelances for a major West Coast syndicate. A run of the mill job the night before instead went awry: he let his target slip away in an effort to quit professional killing and start a new life with his girlfriend Eve.
Now, Chev must keep moving to stay alive: the only way to prolong the poison from stopping his heart is to keep his adrenaline flowing. As the clock ticks, Chelios cuts a swath through the streets of Los Angeles, wreaking havoc on those who dare stand in his way. He must rescue Eve from danger, stay two steps ahead of his nemeses and search for an antidote to save his own life.

MTRCB Rating: R-13

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2 STAY ALIVE
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2 BINIBINING K
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

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A third Ninoy film in the works

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

TV commercial director gets the Aquinos' nod

THREE NINOY MOVIES COULD premiere next year.

The first to hit the news was one identified with actor Cesar Montano and director Marilou Diaz-Abaya.

Then, *komiks* writer-turned-filmmaker Carlo J. Caparas launched a project about the 14 ex-soldiers convicted of the Aquino-Galman murders.

Now comes TV commercial director Miguel "Mike" Alcazaren, who says he has been working on his own Ninoy project since 1997.

Alcazaren told INQUIRER Entertainment that he thought of making a feature film on Ninoy while working as creative consultant on the 1997 documentary "Batas Militar" with line producer Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala.

"At the docu's wrap party, I approached Mrs. Eugenia Apostol (executive producer) who encouraged me to talk to the Aquinos," Alcazaren recalled.

As early as then, he had drafted a proposal, "but the family was busy with the Aquino Museum at the time," he said.

Research

Undeterred, he spent the next nine years reading up—from "Impossible Dream" by Sandra Burton to "The Aquinos of Tarlac" by Nick Joaquin.

He pored over "Testimony from a Prison Cell (Ninoy Aquino's Writings in Prison)" and actual transcripts of Aquino's trial by a military commission, plus doctoral theses and dissertations.

He interviewed Aquino's cell mates, fellow journalists Max Soliven and Napoleon Rama, as well as the senator's siblings Lupita, Tessie and Paul.

He funded his extensive research with earnings from TV commercials. He saved all his research material in a data bank that he cross-referenced with related topics, like the Marcoses and martial law.

"I was determined to become an expert. I told myself: The next time I meet with the Aquinos, I'd be prepared."

In March this year, Rapa Lopa, former President Cory Aquino's nephew, set up a meeting in which Alcazaren presented a 115-page script and a three-minute teaser to Cory and daughter Ballsy, whose first question to him was: "Why are you obsessed?"

He shrugged: "Every single day, I was seeing the movie in my head."

Alcazaren envisions the film in black-and-white, with a projected budget of P50 million.

He assured Cory's daughters Ballsy, Viel and Pinky (whom he is also interviewing), that he would present "Ninoy's human side."

"I don't want to turn him into a caricature, a Superman. I will tackle his weaknesses and struggles. He was an ambitious politician, but prison changed him. It showed him the true source of his strength: his faith and his family."

VIDEO grab from Mike Alcazaren's three-minute teaser that seems to have impressed Cory Aquino.

Skipping Brad P ...

From page H1

two stars who had lived up to his grand expectations when he met them (the other one was **Meryl Streep**). "I thank him for the honor," Kevin said when told of Ashton's compliment later.

At lunch, "Guardian" director **Andrew "Andy" Davis** joined us. Since Andy had 20-plus real Coast Guard rescue swimmers as actors or consultants, we asked about the most remarkable story he had heard from these everyday heroes. His answer: how one of them saved not one, but 27 mostly Filipino crew members from a sinking cruise ship.

After lunch, it was time to talk to Russell Crowe whose last press con with us was, uh, "eventful." This time, the Aussie actor was in a good mood. He had kept his long, brownish hair from "A Good Year" (he plays an investment expert who inherits a chateau in lovely Provence) which made him look younger.

Ridley Scott said the most interesting thing: "I wish Russell would not lose his bad boy quality because that's what makes him tick."

We couldn't wait to leave Four Seasons; we were missing the action back in our hotel. Janet—Mrs. Nepales—had interviewed the "Twilight" folks. **Gina Pareño** and **Jeffrey Jeturian**, award-winning actress and director, respectively, of "Kubrador" were to drop by next.

GINA Pareño and Jeffrey Jeturian

Poignant moment

Talking to the pair a while later, we thanked them both for doing "Kubrador."

With all the acclaim she was experiencing in international festivals, Gina said, "*Puwede na akong mamatay.*" It was such a poignant moment, with Gina breaking into the most blissful smile. She may have said it half in jest but Janet, Jeffrey and I said, almost at the same time, "*Huwag naman!*"

We couldn't help commenting on the anklet that Gina was wearing. She said it was made up of beads that came mostly from a trip to Amsterdam. Flashing that naughty smile and a twinkle in her eyes that we recognized from her old movies, Gina said that, in China, "*pati* anklet *ko pinapalakpakan.*"

When we went down to busy Bay Street to shoot more pictures, Gina—as she posed for Janet—quipped, "*Sa Pilipinas, nanay at lola ako pero dito...*" We finished the sentence, "Star *ka!*"

'Twilight' queue

That evening, we headed not for Roy Thomson Hall, where Brad's "Babel" was screening, but for Paramount Theatre where "Twilight Dancers" was to be shown to the public for the first time. A long line of people hoping to buy last-minute tickets to **Mel Chionglo**'s film that got slapped with an X rating back in Manila had formed outside. In that line, we met Dante Sudiacal, a dedicated reader (it is always our pleasure to meet avid inq7.net readers).

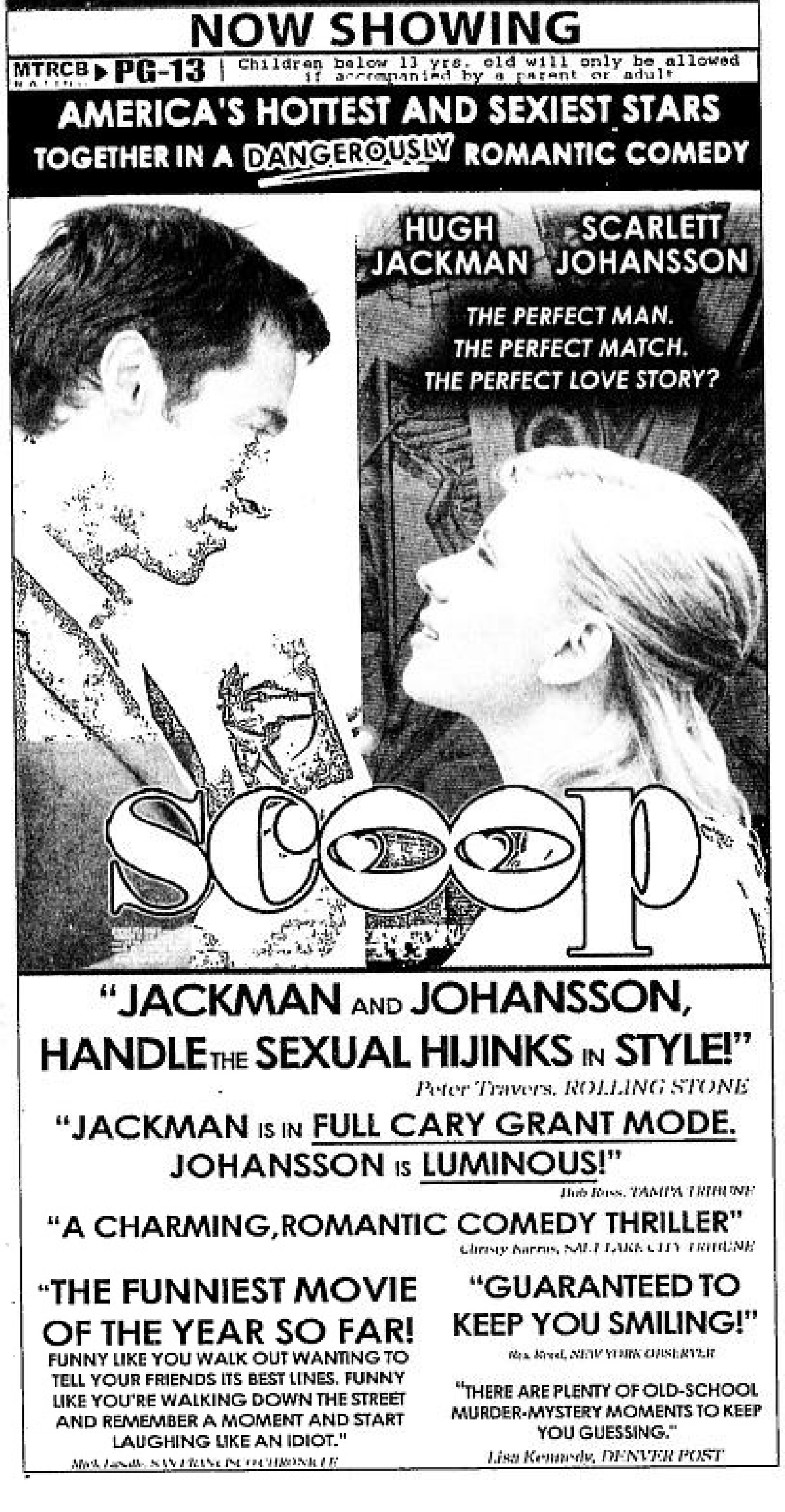
We met the film's stars, **Tyron Perez** and **Allen Dizon**, and director Mel Chionglo. We were glad to see scriptwriter **Ricky Lee** again and **Ferdinand "Ferdy" Lapuz**, who had quit his Toronto job to be a first-time producer for "Twilight." Mel said his two actors were nervous about watching the movie (and seeing a lot of their flesh—as macho dancers—on a giant screen for the first time with hundreds of spectators?). It turned out that only Mel and Ferdy had seen the completed version.

Before a full house, Mel, Allen and Tyron were introduced to applause.

When the film ended, a sizable portion of the audience, a mixture of Filipinos and other races, stayed for the Q and A moderated by Cameron Bailey, who wrote glowing program descriptions of the two RP entries.

Afterwards, at the lobby, filmgoers crowded both "Twilight" and "Kubrador" contingents to meet and have pictures with them.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.



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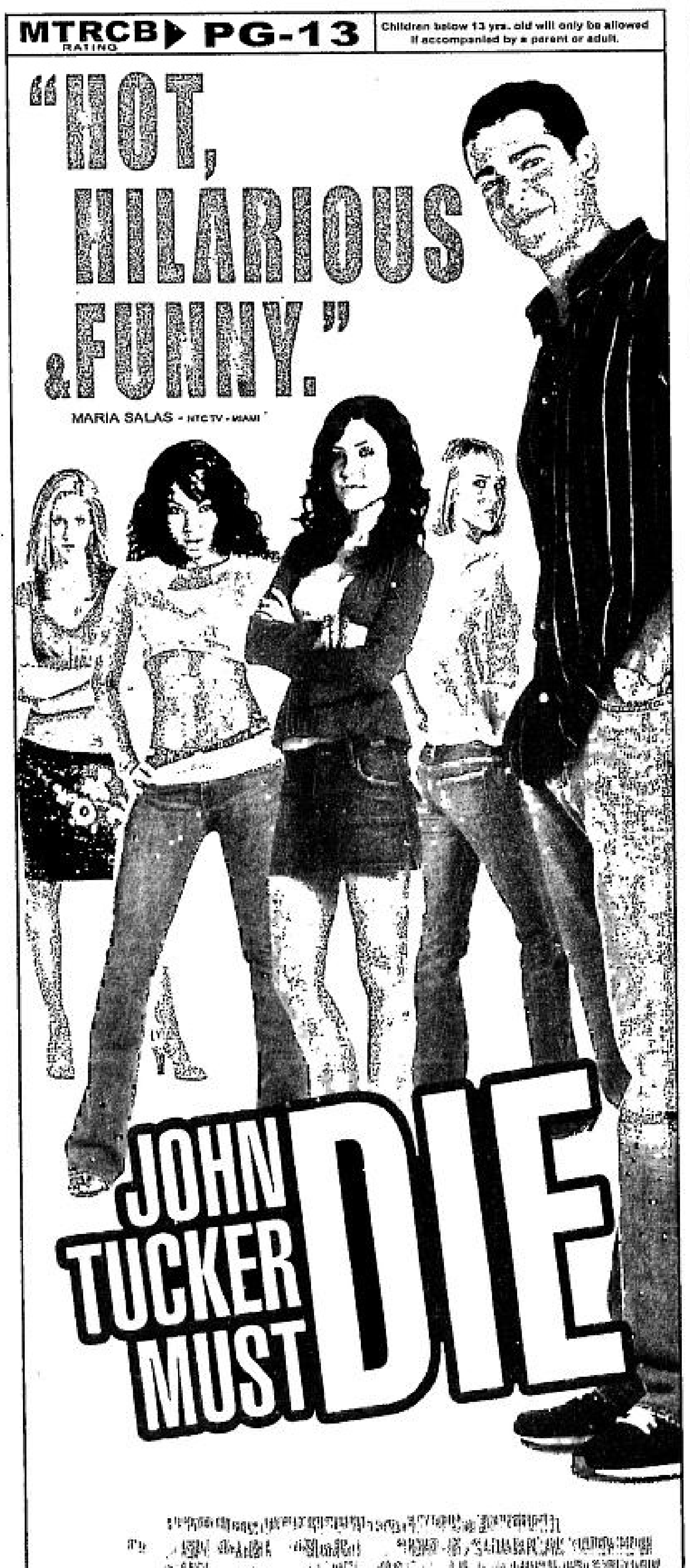
SCOOP
"JACKMAN AND JOHANSSON, HANDLE THE SEXUAL HIJINKS IN STYLE!" Peter Travers, ROLLING STONE
"JACKMAN IS IN FULL CARY GRANT MODE. JOHANSSON IS LUMINOUS!" Bob Ross, TAMPA TRIBUNE
"A CHARMING, ROMANTIC COMEDY THRILLER" Christy Lemire, SALT LAKE CITY TRIBUNE
"THE FUNNIEST MOVIE OF THE YEAR SO FAR! FUNNY LIKE YOU WALK OUT WANTING TO TELL YOUR FRIENDS ITS BEST LINES. FUNNY LIKE YOU'RE WALKING DOWN THE STREET AND REMEMBER A MOMENT AND START LAUGHING LIKE AN IDIOT." Mick LaSalle, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE
"GUARANTEED TO KEEP YOU SMILING!" Rex Reed, NEW YORK OBSERVER
"THERE ARE PLENTY OF OLD-SCHOOL MURDER-MYSTERY MOMENTS TO KEEP YOU GUESSING." Lisa Kennedy, DENVER POST



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3 YOU, ME AND DUPREE MTRCB PG-13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00
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4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE MTRCB: PG-13 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
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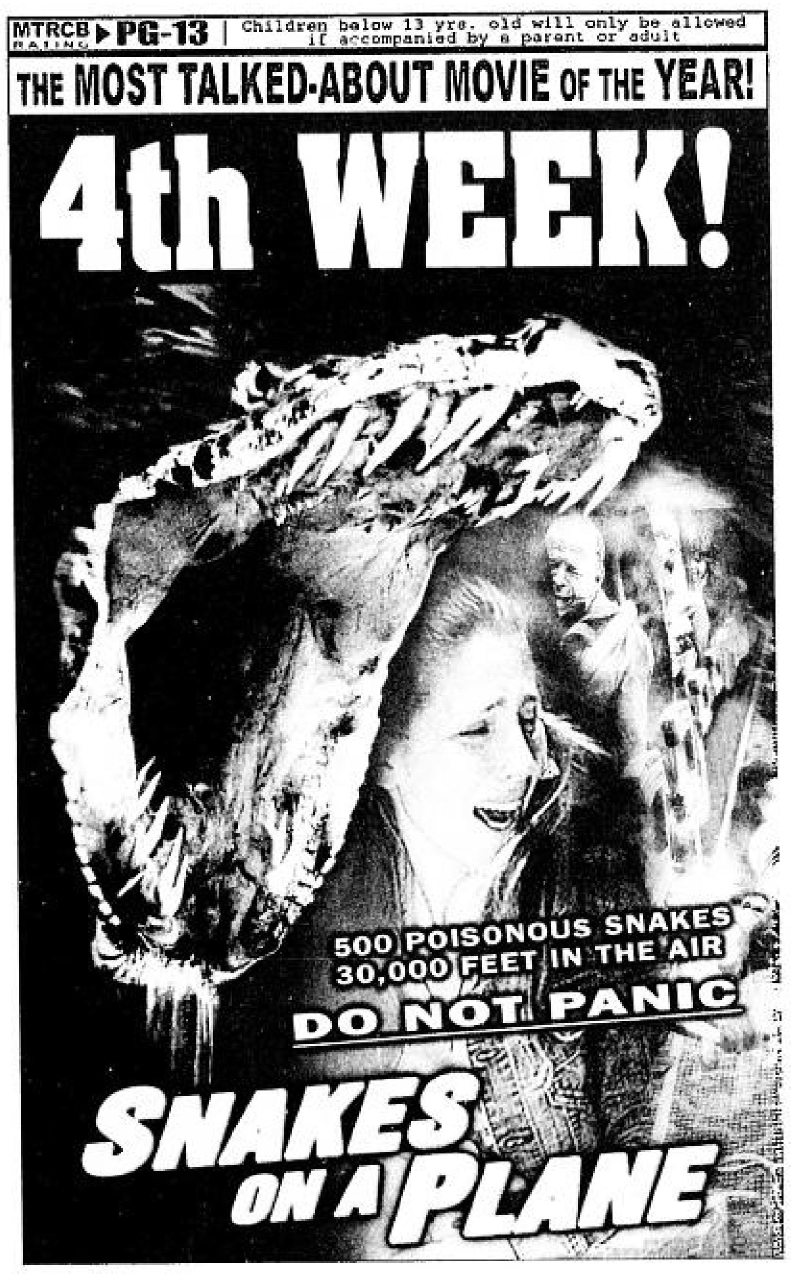

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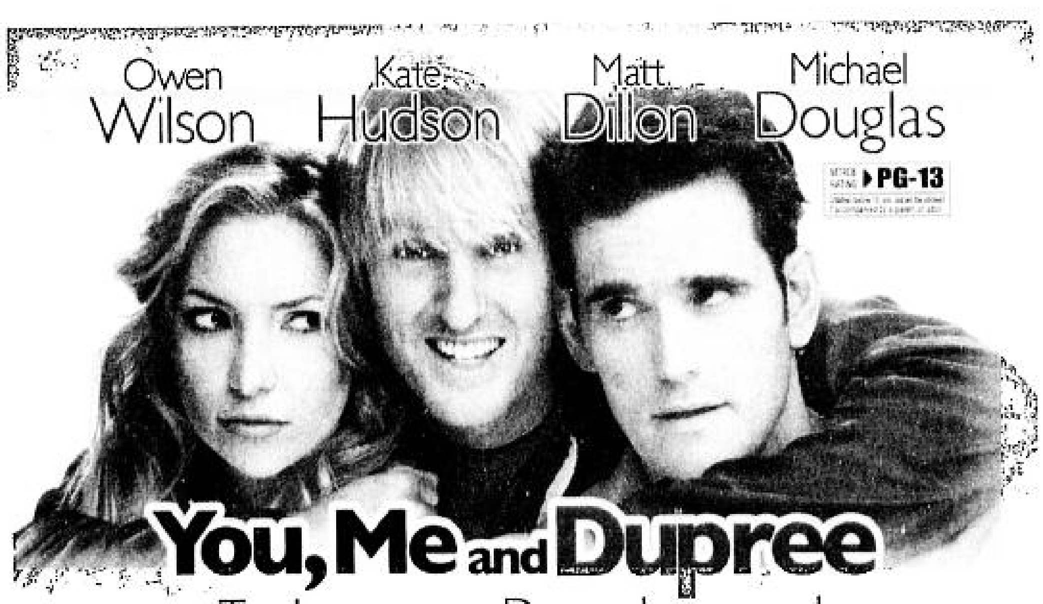

Owen Wilson Kate Hudson Matt Dillon Michael Douglas
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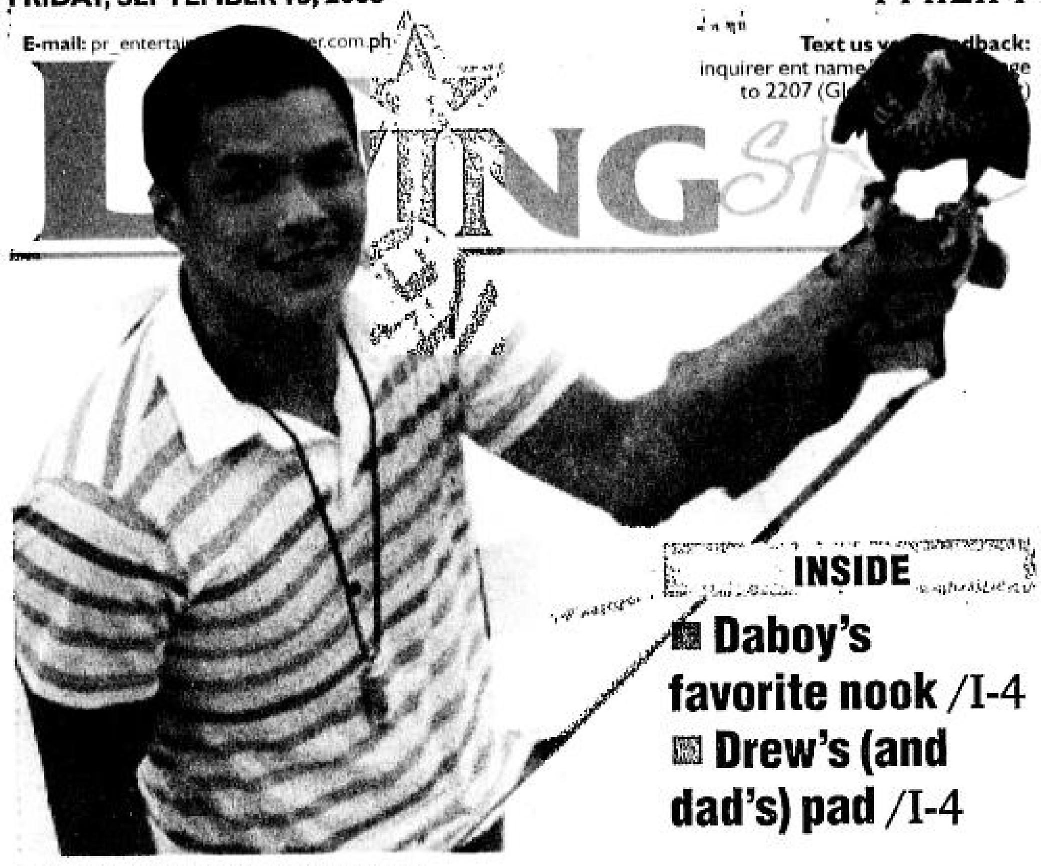

INSIDE

- Daboy's favorite nook /I-4
- Drew's (and dad's) pad /I-4

RAYMART SANTIAGO

Falconry is a complicated hobby, a challenging sport. But the fulfillment you get in taming a wild creature is beyond compare. I am training raptors under the auspices of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). After training, the birds are set free. I led my friend Eric Umali to falconry and he is now addicted to it. This peregrine falcon is named Toni Falcon! At home, I keep Toni away from my macaw Butotoy and cockatoo Ava. Apart from falcons, we also train a Brahminy kite, a hawk and three goshawks. My [adopted] daughter Sabine has also developed a fondness for birds.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

TAIL TALES

KRISTINE HERMOSA

My little baby Bu, a poodle, is a gift from my parents. She's about three years old. Five months ago, she gave birth to three pups. Triplets. I call them her 'chikitings.' In this photo, taken at home, are Bu's babies (from my right) Zach, Samantha and Sweetie. I hug and play with them, take them to the vet and groom them regularly.

Bayani San Diego Jr.

MARITHÉ FRANÇOIS GIRBAUD

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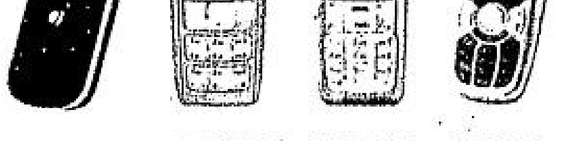

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The Sun Shops: Metro Manila | NEW: Burke Plaza, Binondo (San Fernando cor. Santo Cristo streets) | Robinsons Galleria | SM North Edsa | SM Megamall | SM Manila | Robinsons Manila | Park Square One Robinsons Metro East | SM Fairview | SM Centerpoint | SM San Lazaro | SM Valenzuela | Greenhills | Shangri-la Plaza | Robinsons Cainta | Robinsons Place Pioneer | North Luzon | Robinsons Starmills SM Marilao | SM Baguio | Robinsons Angeles | South Luzon | Robinsons Sta. Rosa | Robinsons Imus | Robinsons Dasmariñas | Robinsons Lipa | SM Bacoor | SM Molino | SM Southmall | Filinvest Festival Mall SM Bicutan | SM Lucena | Visayas | Robinsons Iloilo | Robinsons Cebu | Robinsons Bacolod | SM Cebu | Ayala Center Cebu | Mindanao | SM Davao | Gaisano Davao | Robinsons Cagayan de Oro
Hotline: 395-8000

SUN CELLULAR
Better network, better value.

SM CINEMA
SHARE A MOVIE WITH A LOVED ONE

movietime SHOWTIME
SM DIAL-A-MOVIE 833-9999
Your life as a movi
BIG MOVIES • BIG STA ENTS

EXCLUSIVE
Watch it! Exclusively at SM Cinema

LET'S GET READY TO RUMBLE!

UNFORGIVEN

LIVE VIA-Satellite!
Sept 18, 2006 7PM
Tickets at
Premiere (P 300)
Deluxe (P200)

Witness WWE's UNFORGIVEN on the big screen at these SM Cinema branches:

Megamall (633-1901) • North Edsa (929-5452)
Manila (523-9240) • Southmall (806-6888)
Fairview (935-0749) • Sta. Mesa (716-1416)
Mall of Asia (556-0104) • San Lazaro (786-2488)
Cebu (032)231-3876 • Pampanga (045)9637681-85
Davao (082)2976998 • Clark (045)625-5844-45

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104

IMAX

T-REX IN 3D
11:00AM 12:30PM 4:00PM
5:30PM 7:00PM 8:00PM

ANT BULLY IN FULL IMAX 3D
2:00PM Admission Price- P300

SUPERMAN RETURNS
10:00PM Admission Price- P350

1 CRANK
2 DEVIL WEARS PRADA/ WICKER MAN
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 SCOOP
5 PENGUIN, PENGUIN/ MONSTER HOUSE
6 YOU, ME AND DUPRE

DIRECTOR'S CLUB
CRANK

PODIUM

CINEMA 1
SCOOP

CINEMA 2
JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452

1 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 WICKER MAN
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 MONSTER HOUSE
7 SNAKES ON A PLANE
8 CRANK
9 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
10 BINIBINING K
11 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
12 SCOOP

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

1 CRANK
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 PHILIPPINE IDOL
4 LITTLE MAN
5 SCOOP
6 WICKER MAN
7 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
8 ETERNITY
9 SNAKEs ON A PLANE
10 YOU ARE THE ONE
11 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12 BINIBINING K

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

1 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
2 YOU, ME AND DUPRE
3 SNAKEs ON A PLANE
4 WICKER MAN
5 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
6 BINIBINING K
7 CRANK
8 MONSTER HOUSE
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 ETERNITY
11 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12 STAY ALIVE

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1 CRANK
2 WICKER MAN
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 BINIBINING K
5 YOU ARE THE ONE
6 MONSTER HOUSE
7 SNAKES ON A PLANE
8 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
9 ETERNITY
10 DEVIL WEARS PRADA

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
2 WICKER MAN
3 CRANK
4 BINIBINING K
5 SNAKES ON A PLANE
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1 CRANK
2 SCOOP
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 MONSTER HOUSE
5 WICKER MAN
6 ETERNITY
7 BINIBINING K
8 YOU ARE THE ONE
9 PENGUIN, PENGUIN

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1 CRANK
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 WICKER MAN
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
2 SCOOP
3 WICKER MAN
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE
5 MONSTER HOUSE
6 CRANK
7 BINIBINING K
8 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
9 YOU ARE THE ONE
10 ETERNITY
11 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
12 LITTLE MAN

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04

1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 BINIBINING K
4 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

1 WICKER MAN
2 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 BINIBINING K

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 CRANK
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

SM SHOWTIME

EVENT CALENDAR

Joseph the Dreamer

SEPTEMBER: 16, 17, 23, 24, 30 at 3:00 pm
SEPTEMBER: 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 30 at 7:00 pm
TICKETS PRICES ARE AT P350 AND P250

LUZON

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 AMERICAN HAUNTING
4 WICKER MAN

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 ETERNITY
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 BINIBINING K

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868

1 PENGUIN, PENGUIN
2 BINIBINING K
3 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
4 CRANK
5 WICKER MAN
6 YOU ARE THE ONE
7 ETERNITY
8 MONSTER HOUSE

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 BINIBINING K
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 STORMBREAKER
3 BINIBINING K
4 MONSTER HOUSE

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1 CRANK
2 SNAKES A ON PLANE
3 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
4 ETERNITY
5 BINIBINING K
6 YOU ARE THE ONE

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85

1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 SNAKES ON A PLANE
3 CRANK
4 BINIBINING K
5 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
6 PENGUIN, PENGUIN

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160

1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 BINIBINING K
4 CRANK

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5341265-66

1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 BINIBINING K
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1 DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 STORMBREAKER
3 CRANK
4 YOU, ME AND DUPREE
5 BINIBINING K
6 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
7 YOU ARE THE ONE
8 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 RESERVED
3 SNAKES ON A PLANE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE
5 STAY ALIVE
6 MORTUARY
7 RESERVED
8 MY SUPER EX-GIRLFRIEND

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1 CRANK
2 MONSTER HOUSE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
5 STORMBREAKER
6 SNAKES ON A PLANE

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884

1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 STAY ALIVE

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

movietime PROMO

Now

Share a movie with a loved one at SM Cinema

Buy two movie tickets and get a
FREE MOVIE
ON YOUR NEXT VISIT.

Our way of thanking you for sharing your life with us.

Promo is from Aug. 14 to Oct. 15 Mondays thru Thursdays. Also applicable every 3 Day Sale (Friday, Saturday, Sunday) on particular mall within the promo period.
FREE movie pass is valid on a specific 60-day period.
See Flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2440 Series of 2006

Megamall • North Edsa • Manila • Sta. Mesa • San Lazaro • Sta. Rosa • Las Pinas • Fairview • Sucat • Bicutan • Valenzuela • Molino • Bacoor • Dasmarinas • Batangas • Lucena • Marilao • Pampanga • Clark • Baguio • Cebu • Davao • Cagayan de Oro • Iloilo • The Podium • Mall of Asia Cinemas

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANGRI-LA CINEPLEX
6th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633.2727 / 6337851 loc. 47

1 (DOLBY) EGASAI (FILM FESTIVAL)
2 (DOLBY) SCOOP
3 (DOLBY) YOU, ME AND DUPREE
CRANK
4 (DOLBY) JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE

PREMIERE
MONSTER HOUSE
(DOLBY) THE DEVIL WEAR PRADA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 JOHN TUKER MUST DIE
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 BINIBINING K

starmall EDSA • SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266160

3 BINIBINING K
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) THE WICKER MAN
5 CLOSE FOR RENOVATION

metropolis star cinema
www.clicktheicity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 5433004

1 OBSESSION
2 BINIBINING K
3 YOU ARE THE ONE
4 JOHN TUKER MUST DIE

THEATRES
Tel. Pacific Mall Corporation
Telephone No. (044) 603 3025

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271

1 BINIBINING K
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY) THE WICKER MAN
2 SNAKE ON A PLANE / YOU ME & DUPREE
3 (DTS) MONSTER HOUSE
4 GOLD (DTS) JOHN TUKER MUST DIE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) SCOOP
6 GOLD THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
7 GOLD (DOLBY) CRANK
8 (DOLBY) BINIBINING K
9 ETERNITY / PENGUIN-PENGUIN
10 (DTS) YOU ARE THE ONE

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Nino, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY) YOU ARE THE ONE
2 (DOLBY) BINIBINING K
3 (DOLBY) JON TUCKER MUST DIE
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY) CRANK
2 JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
3 BINIBINING K
4 SCOOP
5 YOU ARE THE ONE

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 MIAMI VICE
2 LITTLE MAN
3 WOLF CREEK
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 BINIBINING K
2 LITTLE MAN
3 YOU ARE THE ONE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 AMERICAN HAUNTING
2 THE WICKER MAN

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5601 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) CRANK
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 (DTS EX) THE DEVIL WEAR PRADA
4 BINIBINING K

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 YOU ARE THE ONE
2 ETERNATY

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE
DEVIL WEARS PRADA
2 (DOLBY) YOU ARE THE ONE
MONSTER HOUSE
3 (DOLBY) SCOOP
4 (DOLBY) CRANK

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 BINIBINING K
2 (DTS) YOU ARE THE ONE
3 (DOLBY) MIAMI VICE
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 STAY ALIVE
2 (DOLBY) BINIBINING K
3 (DTS) YOU ARE THE ONE
4 SNAKE ON A PLANE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 LITTLE MAN
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 (DOLBY) MIAMI VICE

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 TAMARA
2 YOU ARE THE ONE
3 (DOLBY) MIAMI VICE
4 (DTS) MONSTER HOUSE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 BINIBINING K
2 ETERNITY
3 (DOLBY) YOU ARE THE ONE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 ETERNITY
2 YOU ARE THE ONE

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 THE NUN
2 STORMBREAKER

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (DOLBY) REPPER LETTER FROM HELL
2 NIGHT JOB
3 BABY DOLL
4 (DTS) KUBRADOR

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) YOU ARE THE ONE
2 NAIIBANG HAYOP
3 (DTS) BINIBINING K
4 WILD SIDE
5 MIAMI VICE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 MONSTER HOUSE
2 BINIBINING K
3 MIAMI VICE
4 YOU ARE THE ONE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 LITTLE MAN
2 KRISELDA

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

POWER PLANT CINEMA

Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

MONSTER HOUSE **G** 1:00,3:00,5:00,7:00,9:00	**YOU ME AND DUPREE** **PG13** 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10	**SCOOP** **PG13** 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8;15,10:25
CRANK **R13** 2:00,4:00,6:00, 8:00,10:00	**DEVIL WEARS PRADA** **PG13** 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00	**CRANK** **R13** 2:10,4:10,6:10, 8:10,10:10

MOVIES AND SCREENING SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. [illegible]
MATINEE PHP 111.00 – SCREENINGS BEFORE 5:00 PM – MONDAY-FRIDAY

GREENHILLS CINEMAS

GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1	WICKER MAN / DEVIL WEARS PRADA 10:50 , 1:10 , 3:25 // 6:20 , 8:50	PG-13
CINEMA 2	THE WICKER MAN 10:50 , 1:10 , 3:30 5:50 , 8:10 , 10:25	PG-13

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!

NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 3	CRANK 11:00 , 1:20 , 3:40 6:00 , 8:20 , 10:35	R-13
CINEMA 4	SCOOP 11:00 , 1:15 ,3:35 5:55 , 8:15 , 10:35	PG13
CINEMA 5	JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE 10:40 , 1:00 , 3:20 5:40 , 8:00 , 10:25	PG-13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

SEPT. 15 & 16 , 2006	ERIK SANTOS & RUFFA MAE QUINTO	8:00PM
OCT 07 , 2006	AKAFELLAS	8:30 PM

TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY	CERRUDO . CLASSICO	8:00PM
SEPT. 14,21, 28,2006	ISAY ALVAREZ & ROBERT SENA	8:30 PM
	FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC 118	

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635

Eastwood City Jazz sessions

LAUNCHING EVENT
feat. Skarlet, Brass Munkeys, Johnny Alegre Affinity & friends

September 16, 2006
8:00 PM / Eastwood City Walk 2
FREE ADMISSION

Eastwood City
Tel. 687-6770 to 74 • 0917-8-EWCITY

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

1	**JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE** 1:55, 4:10, 6:25, 8:40	**THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA** 11:00
	PG-13	
2	**MONSTER HOUSE** 1:55, 4:10, 6:25 G	**YOU, ME & DUPREE** 8:35, 11:00 PG-13
3	**SCOOP** 12:55, 3:20, 5:45, 8:10, 10:35 PG-13	
4	**CRANK** 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30 R-13	

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

KEANNA REEVES

Binibining K

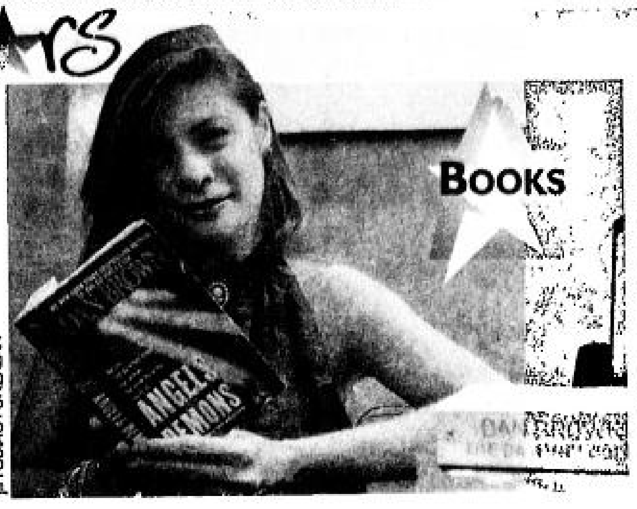
simpleng babae.

'sangkatutak na pangarap.

makamit kaya ang jackpot?

a
REALITY ENTERTAINMENT
Presentation

NOW SHOWING



JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

PINKY AMADOR
I'm reading "Angels and Demons," Dan Brown's work before "The Da Vinci Code." I'm also reading Dan Burnstein's "The Secrets of the Code," a gift from a cousin—footnotes, textual analysis of "Da Vinci" and discussions on controversial topics, like the lost gospels and the life of Magdalene. A friend just gave me a copy of Brown's book—"Deception Point."
Marinel R. Cruz

ECS ELITEGROUP
ECS MOTHERBOARD
Action figure combo
Awesome gaming power

NForce4M-A (v1.1)
- Socket AM2 with AMD Athlon 64 FX/ Athlon 64 / Athlon 64 X2 Dual-Core/ Sempron processor
- Chipset: NVIDIA nForce4-4X single chip
- Supports 4 x 240-pin dual channel DDR2 800 DIMM socket support up to 32GB, FSB 2000 MTS, with built in LAN
- Integrated High Quality 6-channel audio
- 1 PCI Express x16 + 2 PCI Express x1 + 3 PCI Slots
- 4 SATA 11 and Raid 0, 1 and 0+1
- ATX Form Factor

C51GM-M
- Socket AM2 with AMD Athlon 64 FX/ Athlon 64 / Athlon 64 X2 Dual-Core/ Sempron processor
- Chipset: NVIDIA GeForce 6100 & nForce 410
- 2 Dimm for Dual DDR 400 memory up to 2GB , FSB 2000
- 1 x PCI Express x16 slot, 1 x PCI Express x1 slot, 2 x PCI slots
- Realtek ALC655 6-Channel audio CODEC
- Micro-ATX Size, 244mm*224mm

Get any 1 of these for Free

Philippine Ragnarok ONLINE RPG Character Figures
Level Up! Inc. Copyright © 2006 Gravity Corp. & Lee Myoungjin. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
[crusader] [sage]

or

World of Warcraft Character Figures
[turen shaman] [troll priest] [undead warlock]

Promo Mechanics:
- This promo is open to all buyers of ECS NFORCE4M-A and C51GM-M motherboards.
- Every purchased of ECS NFORCE 4M-A or C51GM-M comes with 1(one) free Ragnarok or World of Warcraft character figure attached in the box.
- Promo starts on Sept 01 to Oct 01, 2006
- Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3178, Series of 2006
- Promo available at all authorized dealers nationwide with promo posters

Exclusive Distributor
Axis Global Technologies, Inc.
www.axisglobal.com

www.ecs.com.tw

THE PERFECT MATCH.
THE PERFECT LOVE STORY.
THE PERFECT TREAT
Ayala Malls Cinemas

FREE
Revitalizing Facial
from dermclinic
for every one time purchase of four (4) SCOOP movie tickets at GLORIETTA 4, GREENBELT 3 & ALABANG TOWN CENTER CINEMAS

Catch Hugh Jackman & Scarlett Johansson in SCOOP
Now Showing at Ayala Malls Cinemas

dermclinic
The Face of Real Dermatology
Promo period: September 13 - 19, 2006
Per DTI-NCR Permit #3368, Series of 2006
glorietta Greenbelt Alabang Town Center

The THX experience.
Giving you more than the front seat.
A unique cinematic experience from the largest THX certified theatre operator in the country.
Ayala Malls Cinemas
THX
Ayala Malls CINEMAS

glorietta Greenbelt Alabang Town Center Ayala Center Cebu Market! Market! Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS
THX
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777

Cinema	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
G1 GLORIETTA 1	PENGUIN PENGUIN PAANO KA GINAWA?	JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	BINIBINING K	YOU ARE THE ONE			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	CRANK	YOU, ME & DUPREE	THX SCOOP GUARANTEED SEATS	THE WICKER MAN	MONSTER HOUSE	JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE	THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
GB1 GREENBELT 1	SCOOP	JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	THX SCOOP GUARANTEED SEATS	THX JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE GUARANTEED SEATS	YOU, ME & DUPREE GUARANTEED SEATS	THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA GUARANTEED SEATS	CRANK GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE GUARANTEED SEATS	SCOOP	CRANK	PENGUIN PENGUIN PAANO KA GINAWA?	YOU, ME & DUPREE		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	MONSTER HOUSE	YOU, ME & DUPREE	CRANK	THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2			
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	CRANK	PENGUIN PENGUIN PAANO KA GINAWA?	BINIBINING K	YOU ARE THE ONE	JOHN TUCKER MUST DIE		

At the Activity Center

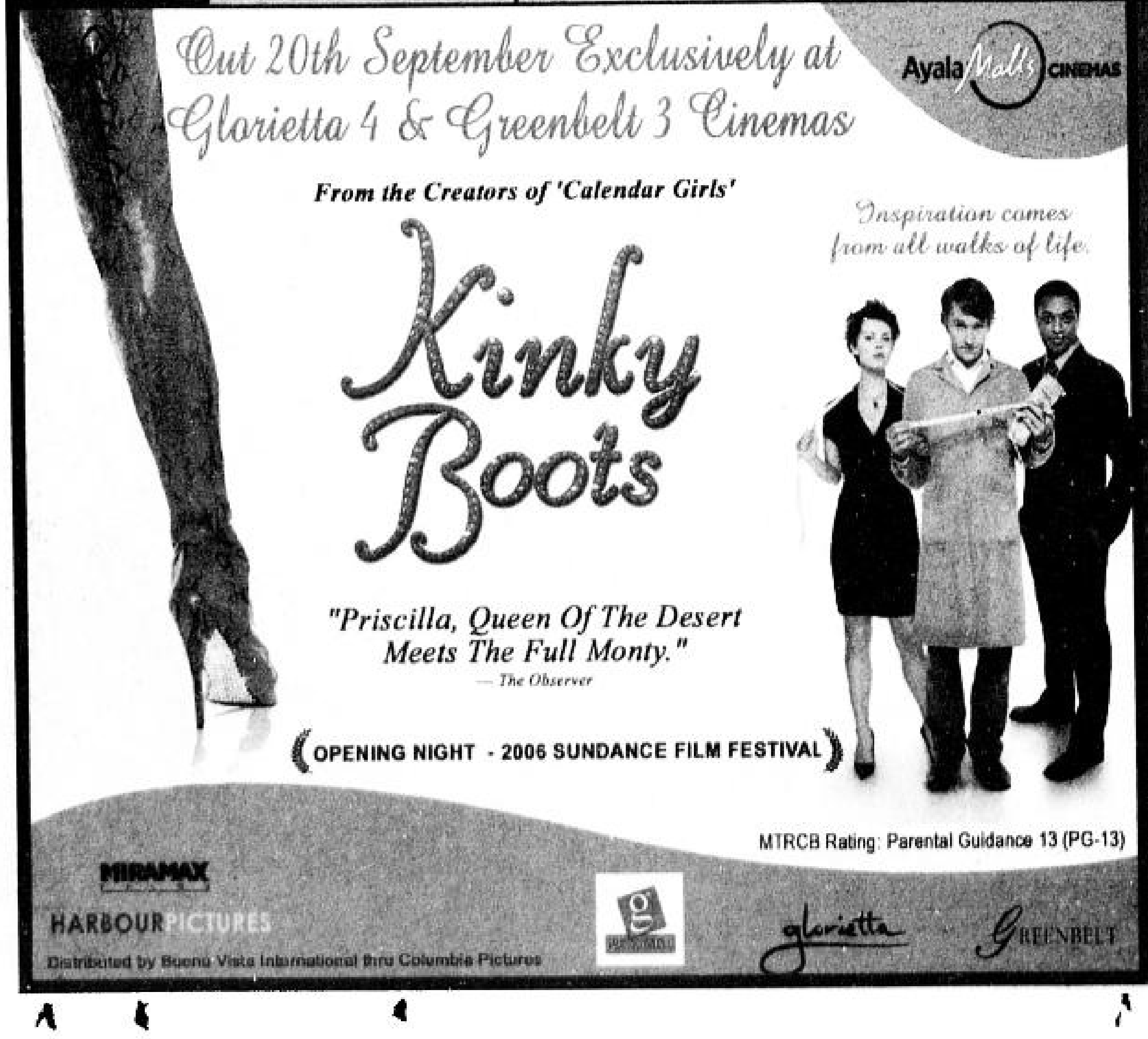
Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm
Greenbelt - 752 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

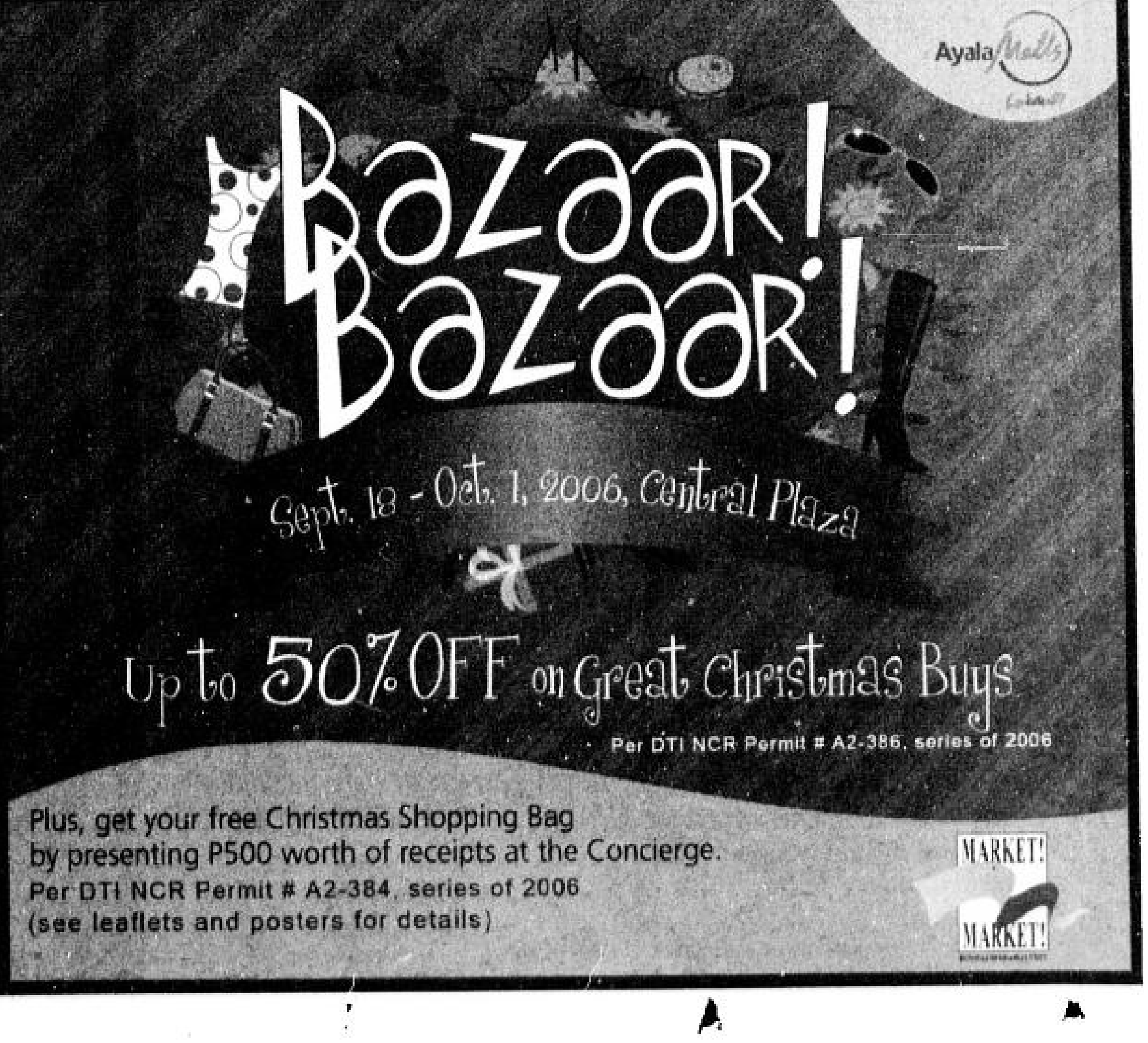
GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
39th BPI Installment Madness August 30 to September 17, 2006	Anson's Emporium September 10 to 24, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
Grow Advance Fantastic Fiesta Mall Show September 16, 2006	Agency of the Year September 15, 2006

Greenbelt
Samba Nights at GB 2
Sitti - September 27, 2006; Sofia - September 13 & 20

Onstage
Repertory Philippines presents
Walt Disney's ALADDIN JR. at REP's Globe Theater
September 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 23, 28, 29 & 30
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM
Ode To The Pasig River
Extended until September 17, 2006
For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 loc 29 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org


Out 20th September Exclusively at Glorietta 4 & Greenbelt 3 Cinemas
Ayala Malls CINEMAS
From the Creators of 'Calendar Girls'
Kinky Boots
Inspiration comes from all walks of life.
"Priscilla, Queen Of The Desert Meets The Full Monty."
— The Observer
(OPENING NIGHT - 2006 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL)
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)
MIRAMAX
HARBOUR PICTURES
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures
glorietta Greenbelt


Ayala Malls
Bazaar! Bazaar!
Sept. 18 - Oct. 1, 2006, Central Plaza
Up to 50% OFF on Great Christmas Buys
Per DTI NCR Permit # A2-386, series of 2006
Plus, get your free Christmas Shopping Bag by presenting P500 worth of receipts at the Concierge.
Per DTI NCR Permit # A2-384, series of 2006
(see leaflets and posters for details)
MARKET! MARKET!

Not the usual bachelor's pad

Drew Arellano shares this condo unit with dad

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

Photos by Rudy Esperas

DREW ARELLANO, "Unang Hirit" and "Balikbayan" host, has it made.

He shares his bachelor's pad in Pasig with his dad, radio commentator and lawyer Antonio "Aga" Arellano (host of the DZXL show "Ito ang Batas").

The arrangement works for him, Drew says.

"It's not difficult at all because my dad's my best friend. In fact, I used to have my own pad, but after a while, I missed our condo and living with him," he recounts.

That's a self-proclaimed Papa's boy.

"We even sleep in the same room," Drew says. "We're a very closely knit family. Even after my parents' separation, we've remained close."

The entire Arellano family used to live in the 200-square-meter unit.

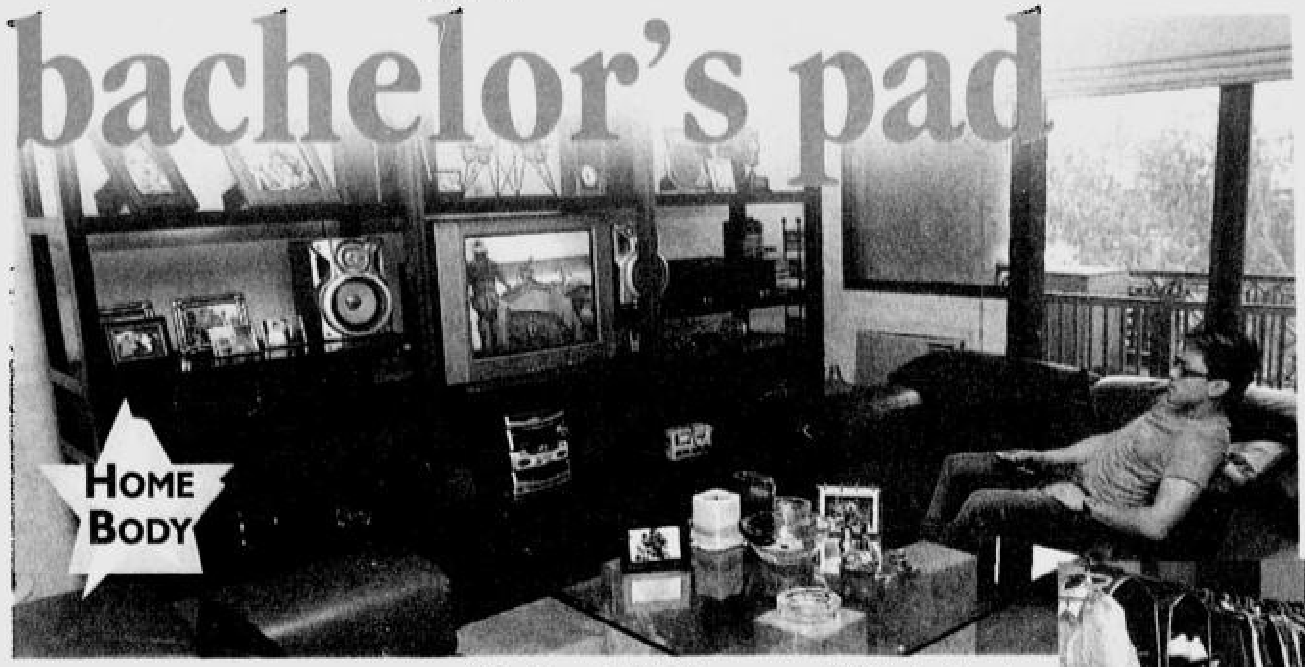
"It's pretty spacious," says Drew. "Condo living offers a lot of perks. Security is awesome. Even when I go home late at night, I still feel safe because the building's well-guarded and well-lit. And we have great neighbors, mostly families with kids."

Speaking of which, when and where does he plan to settle down?

"Probably in five to eight years. Possibly in Australia."

That could be because girlfriend Iya Villania is from the Land Down Under.

As of now ... "I love this place."

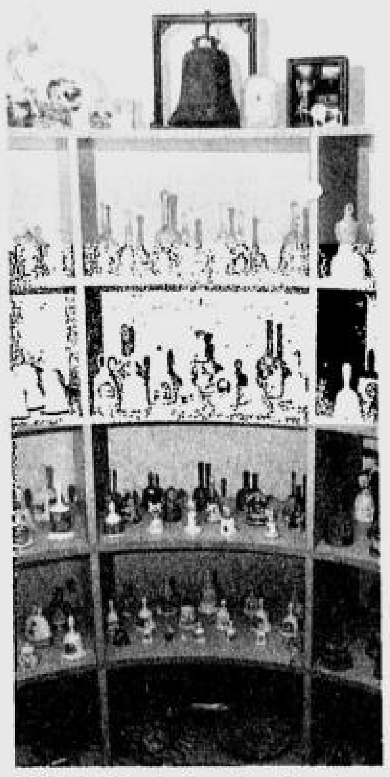


HE usually watches television in the dining room, which has a wall of Art Deco glass blocks. "The TV's usually on when I'm having dinner." There's a TV set in every room. This is the living room. Visitors rarely catch him home, though. "I'm no homebody. I'm always out."

THIS is the dressing room—where he stores not only his clothes, but also his precious rubber shoes collection.

MODERN art work is dad's; golf club set is Drew's. Another current passion is basketball. Interior design by Chito Antonio.

THE COMPUTER nook is in his bedroom. "We have a PC and a laptop. I spend a lot of time surfing the Net."



HALF of his dad's collection of bells, which come from near (Singapore) and far (Egypt and Spain).

"I MIGHT look like an alcoholic," he jested while posing by the mini-bar. Actually, the wine and liquor collection is his dad's.

THE DRESSING room was spruced up on the GMA 7 show "Ang Pagbabago." The olive green wall is Drew's idea, "but the orange accent is courtesy of the show, along with the picture frames. They're new; I have yet to put family pictures in them."

A PICTURE frame-divider shows off snapshots of the clan—four siblings and two nephews and niece. "We all used to live in the 200-square-meter unit. It's spacious."

FAVORITE NOOKS

RUDY FERNANDEZ

I like hanging out in the *lanai* because it opens out to the garden, where the ambiance is relaxing and the breeze is cool. Sometimes I have coffee here or breakfast, *al fresco*. My family and I spend weekend afternoons here, too, while the dogs Koochay and Koochi run around. We've been in this house since 1983."

Bayani San Diego Jr.

Welcome back, CERELAC!

That's right, the baby cereal you love is back!
A complete solid food for babies six months onwards, every serving of CERELAC helps fulfill your baby's daily requirements of important nutrients like calories, protein and iron.

CALORIES
Your baby needs lots of energy for the day, to help her grow up, up, up! That's why CERELAC has an average of 206 calories in every serving --- that's 29%* of your baby's energy needs everyday!

PROTEIN
Did you know that, per kilo of body weight, your baby needs more proteins than you do? That's because her body is busy building muscles and tissues. Every serving of CERELAC meets at least 53%* of baby's daily protein needs to help her grow strrrroooong!

IRON
Babies only need a little bit of iron everyday. But despite the small amount, many babies do not get enough. Iron helps the brain get the oxygen it needs to function well. Each serving of CERELAC has 50%* of the iron your baby needs everyday, to help your baby grow bright and alert!

Just because your baby's so small doesn't mean her nutrition needs are small too. CERELAC packs in the big nutrition your baby needs in a small amount that's just right for her little tummy.

Everyday, your baby is growing bigger, stronger, and more alert. So make everyday a CERELAC day!

goodness & nutrition everyday!

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Wheat & Milk
DHA
6 to 24 months

For more information on the goodness of CERELAC, ask your pediatrician.
The World Health Organization recommends exclusive breastfeeding during the first 6 months, followed by the introduction of appropriate complementary foods with continued breastfeeding for as long as possible.
*Recommended Energy and Nutrient Intake (RENI) computation based on how average nutrient values of CERELAC variants meet Philippine RENI 2002 for 6-12 months. Depending on ingredients, the variants of CERELAC may slightly differ in the amounts of calories and protein.

Shopping, and then some!

Limited embellished Havaianas launched

It was all about glitz and glamour as Aura Athletica launched the Havaianas Embellished Collection in Rockwell Aug. 9. Swarovski crystals, Czech beads and semi-precious stones took center stage in "Let Your Aura Shine", an exhibit featuring Aura Athletica apparel and the latest collection from the best flip-flops in the world.

Lucky media mavens, who got first dibs on the sparkly and shimmery Havaianas, were given exhibit tours before heading to Aura Athletica for a mini-luncheon-cum-private fitting.

Be one of the owners of these limited Embellished pairs, exclusively sold in Aura Athletica, first floor, Powerplant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City.

FROM left: Self-confessed Havaianas addict Pam Pastor chooses which to add to her overflowing collection; Mega's Vicky Tensuan heartily shows off her new Swarovski-encrusted pair; Mia Fausto-Cruz of Seventeen prefers her Embellished Havaianas bright and crystallized; Pink's editor-in-chief Jane Kingsu hams it up for a crystallized pair in her desired color.

'Gamot Para sa Kapwa' at SM

MALLGOERS CAN SHARE THEIR unopened and unexpired medicine with the less fortunate in SM Foundation's "Gamot Para sa Kapwa" campaign, which is currently ongoing at the SM Supermalls until Sept. 29.

A joint project with the Department of Social Welfare and Development, the Department of Health, Watsons, the National Council for the Welfare of the Disabled and the Manila Broadcasting Company, the campaign will benefit indigent communities in Pampanga, Marilao, Baguio, Lucena, Cebu, Davao, Cagayan de Oro, and Batangas. With special focus on persons with disabilities, it also aims to create public awareness on the potential contributions of PWDs in the society given the right opportunities.

"Gamot Para sa Kapwa" was recently launched in simple ceremonies at the SM Megamall. The program included an audio visual presentation highlighting SM Foundation's medical missions, which have served more than 50,000 patients in medical and dental care, as well as in maternal and child assistance. This was followed by a special number by the NCWDP puppet group Mga Bata sa Pook Munting Ningning which amazed the audience with its message of hope.

Project proponents then shared honors during the ribbon cutting ceremony: DSWD Secretary Esperanza Cabral, Watsons' Andrew Denby, Manila Broadcasting Company's Santi Elizalde, and SM Foundation's Debby Sy and Connie Angeles.

"Gamot Para sa Kapwa" donation booths may be found at strategic areas at SM Supermalls. In Metro Manila, these include the lower ground floors of SM Megamall and SM City Fairview, the upper ground floors of SM City North-Edsa and SM City Manila; and the second floor of the SM Supercenter Valenzuela. These can also be found in SM's provincial malls-in Baguio, Batangas, and Lucena in Luzon; and Cebu, Iloilo, Davao, and Cagayan de Oro in the Vizmin area.

NCWDP's Mga Bata sa Pook Munting Ningning puppet show amazes the audience with a special number, bringing the message of hope.

SHARING honors in the ribbon-cutting ceremony are Taytay Bukas Bahay Inc president Aquilino Raymundo Jr, Watsons Andrew Denby, SM Foundation's Debbie Sy, DSWD Secretary Esperanza Cabral, SM Foundation's Connie Angeles and MBC's Santi Elizalde.

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* Chairs available in 6 cute designs.

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We've got it all for you!
SM DEPARTMENT STORE

Promo runs from September 1 to October 1, 2006. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2768, Series of 2006.

QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • MANDURRIAO • CEBU • DAVAO
CAGAYAN DE ORO • BICUTAN • LUCENA • BAGUIO • MARILAO • DASMARIÑAS • BATANGAS • DELGADO • SAN LAZARO • SUCAT • STA. ROSA • CLARK • MALL OF ASIA

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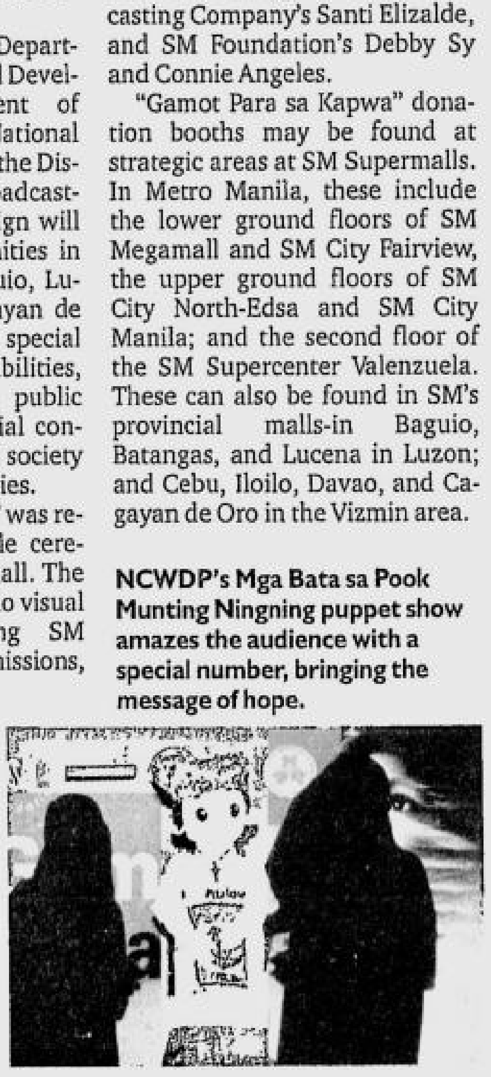

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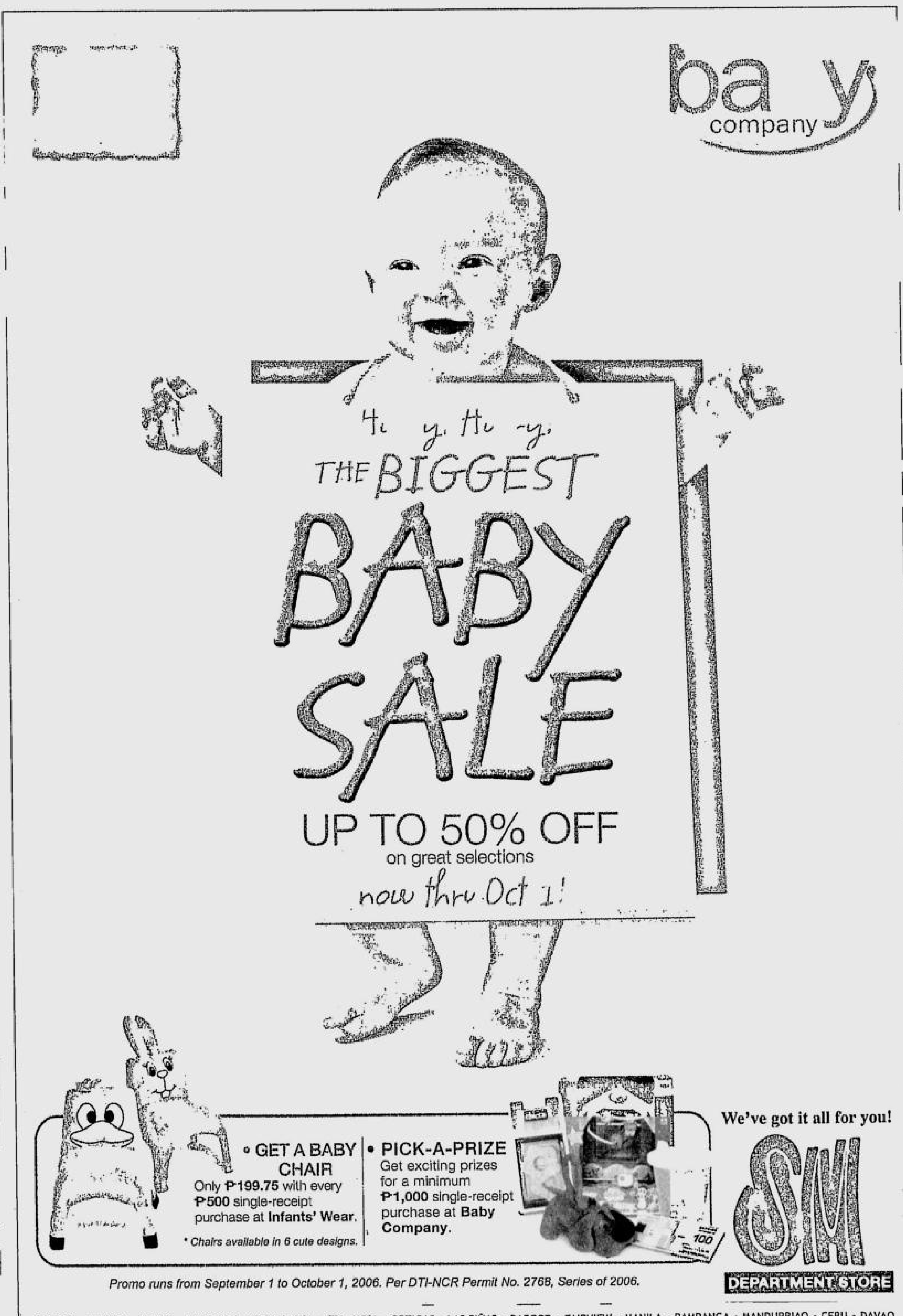
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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

Marithé + François Girbaud Fall - Winter 2006

THE FALL - WINTER COLLECTION OF Marithé + François Girbaud denounces the distress of men who look to seize the profound riches of the Earth. Men obliterate nature, and lacking the power to master it, nature turns it back violently, and rebels.

With this theme for the present season, Marithé Francois Girbaud tries to share ecological awareness with its consumer and tries to attract their attention to the violence that nature will retort with when mistreated.

Urban City Street Couture typifies the Fall - Winter 06 collection for women.

The collection shows the balance between brittleness and the ultimate technical sophistication of cotton combinations on dye with deep colors, which, inevitably brings us back to city silhouette or street couture. Clothes are worked inside and finished outside with details, embroideries, and exquisite tailor seams. Creating a smooth and crushed texture attracting light to impart a mobility of tone.

Color hues for the Fall - Winter 2006 collection of Marithé + Francois Girbaud range from rose orange, cool gray or smoke, purple pink plum, or caviar tweed, handmade navy blue silver swept with an icy wind.

The whole collection intensifies as pieces redesign the body with elegance, such as "paper cut out" jackets cut in soft petrified wool, finely embroidered where there's a play of an unpolished, bright, and textured feel.

On the other hand, a strong emphasis as denim artists is placed on the creative talent behind the designers of the formidable brand Marithé + Francois Girbaud for its men's Fall - Winter 2006 collection.

Intermix is the term used to characterize the pieces found in the collection.

A very special and exclusive fabric is used and the special processing it undergoes result to a fabric whose soul rich in color. Its fibers display unusual hues, making bold statements, ready to emerge like tears or droplets of blood.

Now the focus has been switched from the model to the soul of the denim fabric, which is transformed into a new subject with a strong and surprising personality. The denim now takes center stage. This decisive change of course promises developments that leave behind the "time worn" look, and shifts towards "tailored" jeans.

Trousers bear traces suggestive of the work of contemporary artists working on the canvass of their own period. Jeans are not merely just clothing anymore, they are now a form of art.

Overcoats, jackets and trousers tell tales of extraordinary tailoring, expressed in unusual details. Pieces are highlighted by cross-stitches, as in footballs. Pockets sport boxing glove lacing. Jeans and tailoring are gradually moving closer together.

As applications continue to evolve, numerous adjustments have been made. It is as if everything is destroyed and is rebuilt again to create another look. The Fall - Winter 2006 collection of Marithé + Francois Girbaud continues to challenge the dormant spirit that lies within each and everyone of us, representing what we resent or what we truly and deeply feel.

To view the whole Fall - Winter 2006 collection of Marithé + Francois Girbaud, visit www.girbaud.com or any of its stores nearest you.

IMAX
T-REX
BACK TO THE CRETACEOUS
3D

Samsonite underscores the value of organized traveling

EVER GOT UNDULY HASSLED when you couldn't find important items in your bag? Do you keep spending on things that you already have but forgot about because they are buried deep in your luggage? Or what about getting makeup stains on your clothes?

All these can be easily avoided. The key? Organized packing.

Samsonite, a well known brand of quality luggage, liberates you from undue stress with toiletry and makeup kits that come with Samsonite bags.

Known around the globe for being at the forefront of travel innovations, Samsonite Hommage FL, Streamline MPC, and Xion have been enhanced to ensure that travelers get the most out of their trip sans the troubles caused by unsystematic packing.

With the addition of the beauty cases and toiletry kits, Samsonite easily transforms an ordinary traveler into a smart jetsetter.

The essentials of traveling

Any travel can be ruined by careless packing. The rule of thumb in traveling is to always pack light. Pack just enough clothes, accessories, toiletries and makeup needed for the duration of your journey. Excessive baggage will prove to be inconvenient especially if you keep moving from one destination to another.

Make sure that you carefully segregate the items in your bag. It is prudent to separate liquids such as toiletries, perfume, and makeup from your clothes. Keep your makeup and toiletries in kits that you can easily retrieve.

Hommage FL, Streamline MPC, and Xion's toiletry and makeup kits extend ease and convenience to travelers as they do not have to rummage through their bags. The kits can be placed in conspicuous places that will allow easy retrieval of even the smallest items.

These additions likewise bring back the sophistication in traveling as plastic bags used to store travel must-haves are eliminated. The kits are also secure enough to prevent leaks that can be disastrous to garments.

The cases and kits perfectly complement the aesthetic and functionality of Samsonite bags. With their fashion-forward and utilitarian designs, Samsonite bags are reliable and stylish traveling companions.

The Samsonite toiletry and make-up kits are available at the Samsonite Black Label boutique in Power Plant Mall, Samsonite store in The Podium, The Travel Club outlets, Duty Free Philippines and leading department stores nationwide.

'T-REX: Back to the Cretaceous'

AMAZING Imax 3D FILM Technology and state-of-the-art special effects bring audiences something bigger than their imagination.

The San Miguel Coca-Cola Imax theater will take audiences 65 million years back in time with the release of the adventure film "T-Rex: Back to the Cretaceous" in the three-day sneak preview this Sept. 15, 16 and 17. This will only be a special offer for the 3-Day Sale of the Mall of Asia.

Filmed using Imax's Oscar-winning large-format technology, "T-Rex: Back to the Cretaceous" slices through the mysteries of the millennia to bring dinosaurs to life with the groundbreaking detail, unparalleled realism, and the awesome size and thrilling feeling of the Imax 3D experience.

This breakthrough film showcases a significant advancement for large-format technology with photo-realistic and stereoscopic dinosaurs brought to life through Imax 3D technology. Shot on location in Alberta, Canada and Dinosaur Provincial Park, "T-Rex..." is Imax's biggest, most elaborate production ever and marks the company's commitment to move from the traditional documentary arena to adventure/dramatic feature films.

Dinosaurs are very much alive—at least in the mind of Ally Hayden (Liz Stauber). But the closest she has come to them in her world is in seeing the dinosaur bone skeletons and artists' renderings in the museum where her father, the world-famous paleontologist Dr. Honald Hayden (Peter Horton), has his headquarters.

Like her father, Ally is fascinated by the way that modern science and the study of dinosaur bones and fossils can lead to uncovering the mysteries of what dinosaurs where really like—what they looked like, how they moved, how and what they ate and how they raised their young. When Donald Hayden and his assistant Elizabeth (Kari Coleman) bring his latest discovery back to the museum, Ally is excited that the oblong-shaped fossil rock might be a yet undiscovered Tyrannosaurus-rex egg.

The adventure of Ally back in time paves the way for her to discover and explore the mysterious new world of one of the most fearsome creatures of all time—the awesome, and very much alive, Tyrannosaurus Rex.

"This film is about using the Imax experience to take us back and see how these incredibly majestic and fierce animals lived during a time that is almost impossible for us to imagine," states director Brett Leonard. Imax's use of larger format film and the Imax 3D technology creates the closest thing truly immersive, virtual-reality that exists on the planet. This is the first large-format film to dare to incorporate 21 years of computer-generated imagery effects so extensive throughout the film.

This Imax presentation is expected to bring dinosaurs as real as ever for thousands of Filipinos.

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Godiva Mall Tour with Assunta

GODIVA NATURAL SKIN CARE CELEBRATES 10 years of success with a mall tour by Assunta De Rossi this September. Distribution of autographed pictures of Assunta and photo opportunities with the award-winning actress are the main attractions of the mall tour.

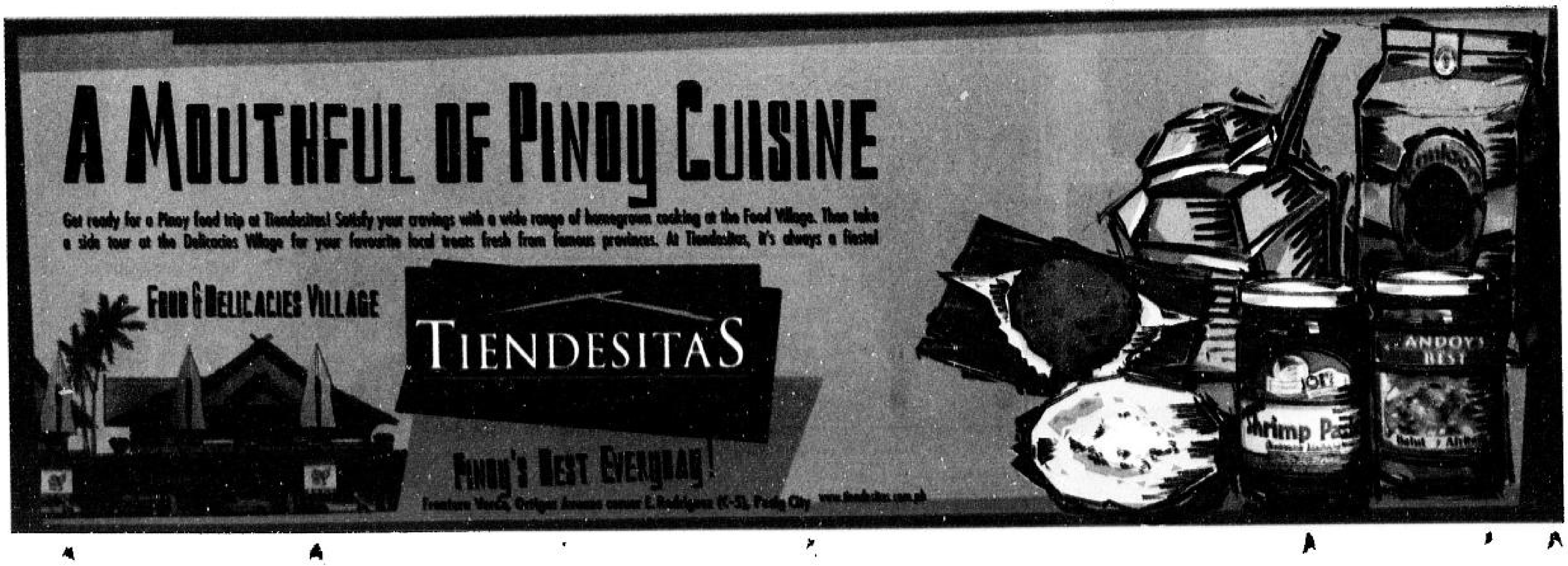
The Godiva mall tour with Assunta schedules and venues are: September 2 at SM Mall of Asia, September 9 at SM Makati, and Market Market, September 16 at SM Megamall and Robinson's Galleria, September 23 at SM North Edsa and September 30 at SM Fairview. The mall tour starts at 3 p.m.

The Mall Tour is also designed to drum up Godiva's campaign for responsible use of skin whiteners. With Assunta as the face for it's advocacy for natural beauty, Godiva wants to impart the message that "Beautiful skin does not have to mean white. The best skin color is the one you're born with." Godiva wants all of us to be proud of our natural beauty.

To achieve maximum impact for the message, Godiva did not get a mestiza celebrity endorser. Instead, Assunta, with her golden brown, even-toned, lush skin was chosen as the model for the Godiva campaign for responsible use of skin whiteners and other beauty aids.

The Godiva Mall Tour with Assunta de Rossi is supported by Happy Feet and Chef D' Angelo. Happy Feet created special Godiva-edition sandals for Ms. de Rossi which will be available in the market soon.

Godiva is available at all Watson's, Mercury Drug and major department stores nationwide. For more information, call telephone 890-9845 or email: info@godivaskincare.com


A MOUTHFUL OF PINOY CUISINE
Get ready for a Pinoy food trip at Tiendesitas! Satisfy your cravings with a wide range of homegrown cooking at the Food Village. Then take a side tour at the Delicacies Village for your favourite local treats fresh from famous provinces. At Tiendesitas, it's always a fiesta!
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ANDOY'S BEST
Shrimp Paste

Walter Mart shopper wins trip to Disneyland

LIZA RAMOS WENT TO BUY GROCERIES AT Walter Mart Makati and ended up winning a trip with her family to Hong Kong Disneyland!

Ramos' prize was inclusive of a 3-day, 2-night hotel accommodation.

The month-long promo required a P300 worth of purchase of participating products in a single receipt. The participating products included Coca Cola products, Nestle, Colgate Palmolive, Hershey's, Gillette, Procter & Gamble, Kraft, and US-made products such as Old Orchard Health Balance Juices, Rauch Happy Day Juice, Rauch Green Tea, Rauch Gingko Tea, Bravo Juices, Cousin Willie's Microwaveable Popcorn, Allen's Popeye, Jolly Cow Fresh Milk, Jolly Cow Skim Milk, Vitasoy, Franzia California Red Wine, May Sparkling Juices, Welch's Grape Juice, Heinz Worcestershire Sauce, Pringles, and Trolli Gummies.

The participating Walter Mart Supermarket stores were those in Quezon City, Makati City, Pearl Plaza, Plaridel, Bulacan; Sta. Rosa, Calamba, Los Baños, Biñan, Lipa, Dasmariñas, Gen. Trias, Carmona, Rosario and Imus.

Aside from the grand prize winner, Walter Mart also awarded 20 consolation prizes of P1,000 worth of Coca Cola products in gift certificates.

With convenient supermarket formats that organize products according to how customers would shop, Walter Mart cuts down shopping time by putting related products in groups via its Home Care, Health and Beauty and Breakfast solution centers.

For hassle-free, no-nonsense shopping, make Walter Mart a one-stop destination for the entire family. Visit any of the Walter Mart Supermarkets in E. Rodriguez Quezon City, Pasong Tamo Makati and other stores in Cavite, Laguna and Batangas. For inquiries, call 747-4578 or 631-8161.

SHOWN are Liza Ramos (2nd from right), husband Berny, and children Patricia and Louie, with (left) Jo Buenaventura, store head of Walter Mart Makati; and (right) Joanne Lim, business development manager for Walter Mart Supermarket.

'GATEWAY MADNESS LIKE NO OTHER' WINNER
Mad with joy and excitement was how government employee Lia Bautista (2nd from left) felt the day Araneta Center and BPI Express Credit Card awarded her the keys to a brand new Nissan Frontier Titanium X3 for being the grand prize winner in the 'Gateway Madness Like No Other' promo. Other prizes given away were Shisheido Facial gift certificates, Menage Salon gift certificates and other great treats from Gateway Mall, Araneta Center's high-end shopping destination. Bautista, a regular shopper at the mall, says that Gateway is her favorite shopping center because of its wide selection of top retail brands and dining spots, as well as its elegant look and modern amenities. Shown is Bautista beside Gateway Mall marketing officer Val Peramide (left) and the BPI marketing staff.

Situating your store in shopping centers

SHOPPING CENTERS ARE DISTINCTLY DIFferent from downtown and local business strips. The shopping center building is pre-planned as a merchandising unit for interplay among tenants. Its site is deliberately selected by the developer for easy access to pull customers from a trade area. It has on-site parking as a common feature of the layout. The amount of parking space is directly related to the retail area.

Customers like the shopping center's convenience. They drive in, park and walk to their destination in relative safety and speed. Some shopping centers provide weather protection, and most provide an atmosphere created for shopping comfort. For the customer, the shopping center has great appeal.

Developers and owners of shopping centers look for successful retailers. If you are considering a shopping center for a first-store venture, you may have trouble. Your financial backing and merchandising experience may be unproven to the developer. Your challenge is convincing the developer that the new store has a reasonable chance of success and will help the tenant mix.

Whether or not a small retailer can get into a particular shopping center depends on the market and management. A small shopping center may need only one children's shoe store, for example, while a regional center may expect enough business for two or more.

Important questions to answer

In examining any shopping center location, get answers to questions such as:

- Are its shoppers your prospective customers?
- Would the center offer the best sales volume potential for your kind of merchandise or service?
- Can you benefit enough from the center's access to a market? If yes, can you produce the appeal that will make the center's customers come to your store?
- Can you deal with the competition of other stores?
- How much space do you need and where do you want it? Rents are typically high, so space must be used efficiently.
- What amount of space will you need to handle the sales volume you expect to have?
- Do you need to be in the main flow of customers as they pass between the stores with the greatest customer pull?
- Who will your neighbors be? What will their effect on your sales be?
- What will rent really cost? Can you draw enough sales to cover the true rent of being in a center?

Don't forget that you still have to design and finish out your space. You pay for light fixtures, counters, shelves, painting, floor coverings, and installing your own heating and cooling units. (*From www.entrepreneur.com*).

Casio sheen:
Boldly feminine

What happens if your typical brand of casual watches starts making elegant timepieces?

The traditional perception of Casio watches is often associated with casual and boyish images of tickers. But now that they have ventured into a more stylish line of timekeepers would it mean low quality and less appeal?

Neither.

Girly and flirty watches from Casio can now be found in the wide and voguish collection of Casio Sheen.

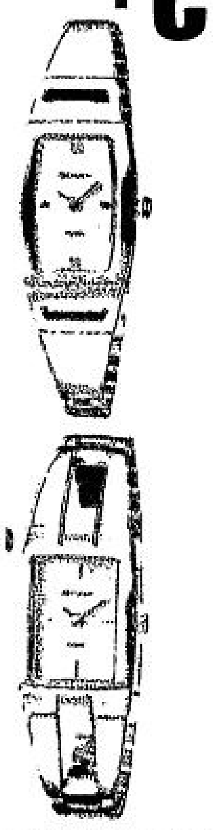
From one of the most reliable makers of watches comes a new batch of well designed fashion timepieces. Not your typical Casio watches, these time pieces are more suitable for dress up occasions and would fit the needs of young professional women.

These metal band watches that also features glossy colored faces offers more than the benefits of reliable timing but also the pleasure of finding yourself with refined timepieces. The advantages of these bracelet-like watches compared with other timepieces are the classic design that never goes out of style.

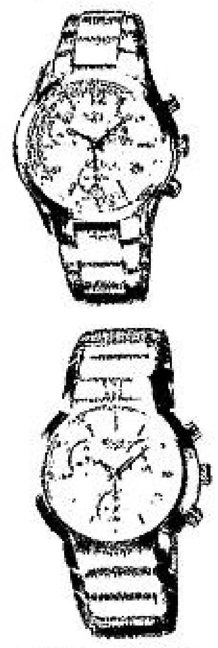
Understanding the needs of the new age women, Casio Sheen's innovative and voguish new products are perfect for modern women who want to exude feminine sophistication and style while keeping her on time.

Dressing up your wrist with these great treasures are more than enough to speak your woman's desire for an innovative Casio fashion.

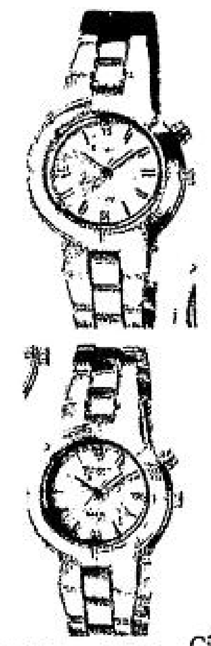
To get these boldly feminine and fashionable watches drop by G-Factory (Glorietta) and any Time Depot stores located in Rockwell (Makati); Robinsons Place (Manila); Shangri-La Plaza Mall (Mandaluyong City); Festival Supermall (Alabang, Muntinlupa); Eastwood Citiwalk 2 (Libis, Quezon City); and SM branches in North Edsa Annex; Fairview, Pampanga and now at SM City Mall of Asia.



CASIO Sheen--green and purple face



WHITE and pink face



BLUE and pink face

Burgoo opens at Robinsons Galleria

BURGOO, YOUR FAVORITE American Bar and Restaurant, opened its seventh and latest outlet at the now more exciting and newly renovated Robinsons Galleria. Specifically located at the 4th level (near the movie house), Burgoo takes pride as the first and only American-themed bar and restaurant in the mall with a total seating capacity of 120.

With the success of six Burgoo branches-along Tomas Morato Extension in Quezon City; Powerplant Mall at Rockwell Center in Makati City; The Podium Mall at Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City; The Promenade in Greenhills, San Juan; Gateway Mall in Araneta Center, and at the premiere Mall of Asia-there is no stopping the guests from bubbling over anticipation of another outlet. Carrying the banner "At Burgoo it's always a family treat", this favorite family restaurant likewise gives every customer the feeling of belonging.

Burgoo opens daily from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. For reservations and inquiries, call 927-7424, 898-1815 to 17, 687-5254, 726-3578, 912-7939 or 556-0091.

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DTI Region 2 - Sept 28 - Oct 10

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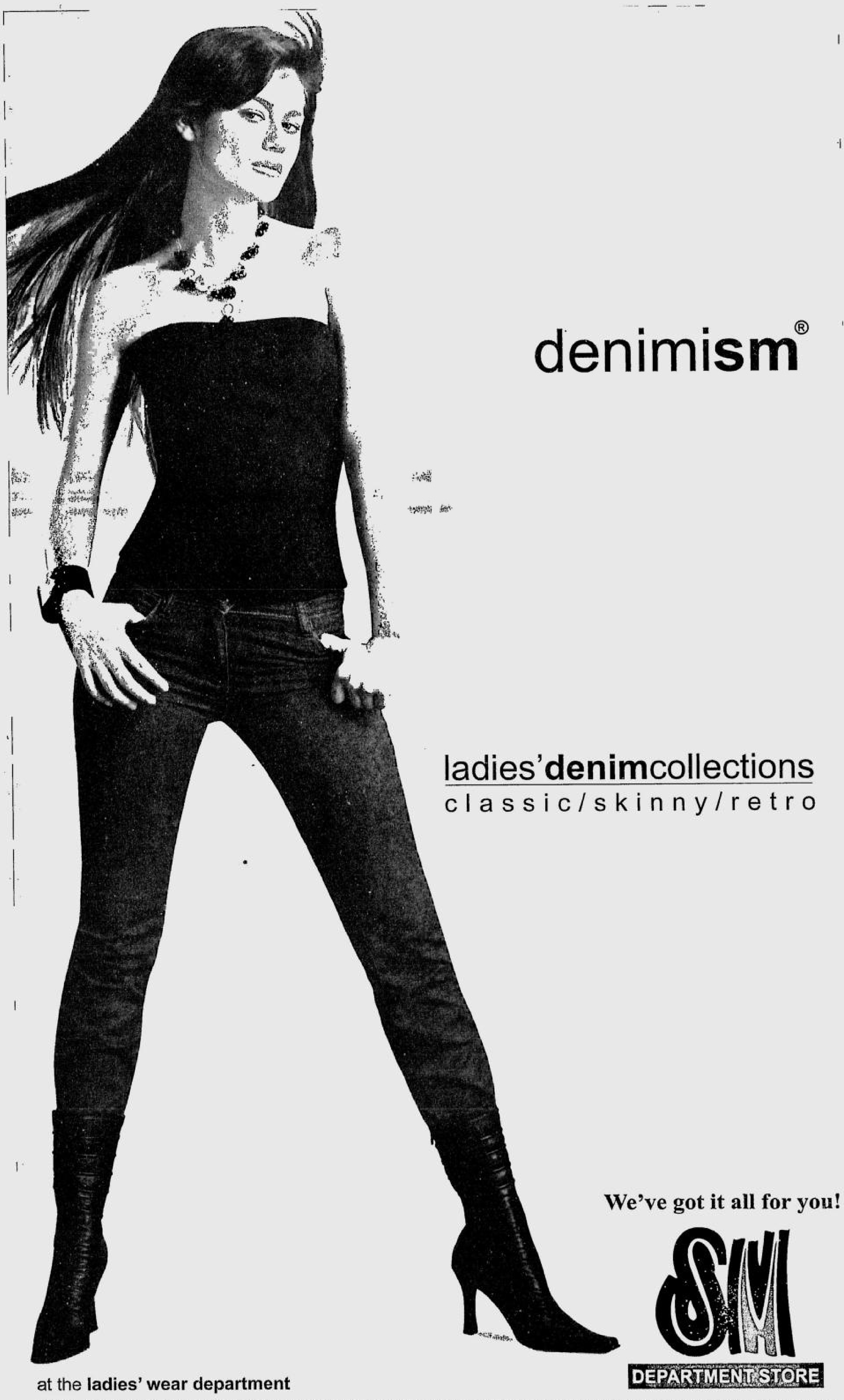
Call Customer Service at 8503514 or visit website www.festivalsupermall.com.

UCC COFFEE BREWS IN MALL OF ASIA

Two UCC Coffee shops opened at the newly inaugurated SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City. The UCC Vienna Café, located at the north wing of the commercial complex, has an 80-seating capacity that boasts of UCC's signature chic interiors and sophisticated ambiance. Overlooking Manila Bay is the UCC Café Terrace at the south wing of the mall. It has a 100-indoor and outdoor seating capacity that plays host to diners who troop to the place to enjoy the magnificent sunset view with their siphon-brewed coffee. UCC Coffee shops are all-day dining places that serve Japanese fusion dishes like Chicken Wakadori Salad, Seafood Soup Spaghetti, and Yakiniku Rice Plate. It also carries delectable and unique cakes and pastries, apart from an assortment of only-in-UCC cold beverages. UCC Coffee shops are also located at Tomas Morato, Quezon City; Connecticut Street, Greenhills; The Podium, Ortigas Center; Forbes Town Center, The Fort; Westgate Center, Alabang; Paseo Center, Makati; and Rockwell Drive, Makati.

FASHION STORM AT RIVERBANKS MALL

Riverbanks Mall recently concluded a fashion event dubbed 'Fashion Storm' that showcased the different fashion collections from Fashion Gallery July 1 at the mall stage. Shown are models in casual collection from City Dress. The event was also supported by Mister Donut, Innovatronix and Characters Unlimited. Riverbanks Mall is located at A. Bonifacio Avenue, Marikina City.



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CAGAYAN DE ORO • BICUTAN • LUCENA • BAGUIO • MARILAO • DASMARIÑAS • BATANGAS • DELGADO • SAN LAZARO • SUCAT • STA. ROSA • CLARK • MALL OF ASIA

Sparkling Wega launch with the Megastar

IT WAS, INDEED, A STARRY, STARRY NIGHT.

The consumer launch of the Sony Sparkling Wega in SM Megamall was more than just a simple product introduction. It was a celebration of the partnership of the brightest names in the electronics and show-biz industry-Sony and Sharon Cuneta, respectively.

Fans and curious shoppers were welcomed to an eveningof beautiful music and entertainment, as teen songbird Lovi Poe and balladeer Luke Mijares treated the audience with live performances of their hits from their latest albums by Sony BMG.

The main act, Sharon Cuneta's renditions of "To Love Again" and the title track of her gold-certified album "Isn't It Romantic?" proved why her sparkle is as brilliant as ever and why she remains the country's one and only Megastar.

Sharon Cuneta had earlier recorded a special edition CD and DVD of "Isn't It Romantic?", which is available with every purchase of the Sony Sparkling Wega. This is all part of the "Wish Upon a Wega" promo, where every purchase of any model of the Sony Sparkling Wega gives one a chance to win an array of Sony products.

For inquiries on the Sony Sparkling Wega, get in touch with Sony's customer contact center at 878-2600 or 0917-8077669, or e-mail info.sph@ap.sony.com. The Sony Sparkling Wega Series is available in Sony Squares, Digital Solutions Plazas, and authorized Sony dealers nationwide.

> Sharon Cuneta had earlier recorded a special edition CD and DVD of "Isn't It Romantic?"

Shopping, and then some!

Ortigas Center developer celebrates 75 years

Ortigas & Company, Limited Partnership was established on July 10, 1931 to acquire a 4,000-hectare property known as "Hacienda de Mandaloyon". The incorporators of the partnership (known initially as Ortigas, Madrigal y Cia. S. en C.), were Don Francisco Ortigas y Barcinas, Vicente Madrigal, BCM Johnston, Fulgencio Borromeo, Clyde A. Dewitt and Manuel L. Quezon. The composition of the partnership has evolved through the years and today, the general partners are Rafael Ortigas Jr, Francisco Ortigas III, Ignacio R. Ortigas, Fernando M. Ortigas, Warner GN Manning and Martin Cook.

Hacienda de Mandaloyon's land area included parts of what is known today as Mandaluyong City, Pasig City, City of Manila, the Municipality of San Juan, Quezon City and Marikina City.

Under the stewardship of lawyer Francisco Ortigas Jr, who was president of the partnership from 1945 to 1998, the original hacienda was transformed into a progressive industrial, commercial, and residential urban complex.

Ortigas & Company, Limited Partnership takes pride in being known for establishing Ortigas Center, one of the oldest and busiest business districts in the Philippines and home to some of the biggest corporations of the country today.

The company's expertise in planning and design in the '70s and '80s did not go unnoticed, and is showcased in various upscale residential projects that it developed, which include: the Greenhills subdivisions, Greenmeadows, Valle Verde and Wack-Wack. These subdivisions remain to be the most sought after residential subdivisions in the market today.

Ortigas & Company, Limited Partnership is also the company behind the leader of value shopping in the Philippines, Greenhills Shopping Center - a landmark that has put the country in the international shopping map and the newly opened Tiendesitas at Frontera Verde is already gaining worldwide acclaim as another "must-visit" of tourists.

As it celebrates its 75th anniversary, Ortigas and Company, Limited Partnership reaffirms and fortifies its commitment to vision, hard work, and progress.

To make its diamond anniversary more meaningful and memorable, a series of activities were organized leading to the grand anniversary celebrations in July 2006:

Dec. 19, 2005-Opening of Ortigas Park and launching of the OCLP 75th anniversary logo

Located in the midst of the urban jungle of Ortigas Center along Don Francisco Ortigas, Jr Road (formerly known as Emerald Avenue), is Ortigas Park. This pocket park features a water wall, landscaped gardens and trellised walkways. This park serves as an oasis for employees of the center - where one can unwind after a day's work. It was during its inauguration that OCLP launched its 75th anniversary logo and vision statement signifying the start of a series of anniversary-related activities.

Feb. 15, 2006-Inauguration of the Ortigas Foundation Library

Attended by well-known historians, writers and members of the League of Corporate Foundations, OCLP through its foundation Ortigas Foundation Inc (OFI), opened the Ortigas Foundation Library.

The library has one of the most comprehensive Filipiniana collections in the country. It houses over 16,000 books, periodicals and documents that allow a glimpse of the past.

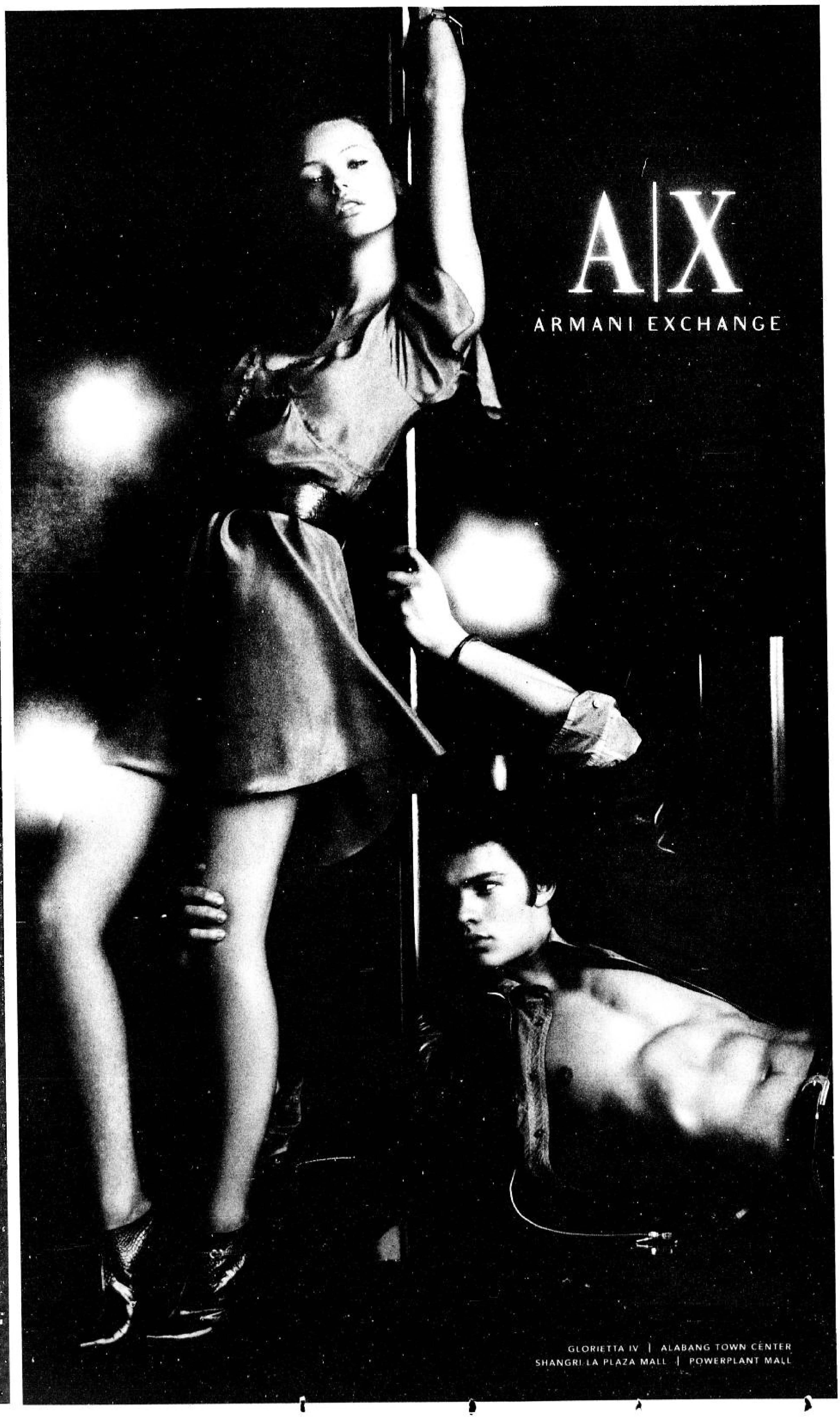
A rare book room contains some 500 rare books, documents, photographs, and maps. There is also a World War II collection composed of books by American and Filipino authors, as well as newspapers published from 1941 to 1945.

July 7, 2006-Thanksgiving Concert at the Meralco Theater

Dubbed as "Symphony of Life", OCLP organized a concert featuring the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and the San Miguel Master Chorale. Music from the 1930s to the present captivated its audience composed of its business partners, family, friends and former and present employees.

The program started with an inspiring message from its president lawyer Rafael Ortigas, Jr, who said, "We celebrate the past because this allows us to envision the future - beyond the next five, 10, 20 years-even another 75... We intend to pass on the same foresight, passion, and work ethic to future stewards of the company. We thank our buyers, our merchants, our consultants, our contractors, our suppliers, our service providers and our bankers for believing in us."

ORTIGAS/ K3



A|X
ARMANI EXCHANGE

GLORIETTA IV | ALABANG TOWN CENTER
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL | POWERPLANT MALL

Ortigas Center . . .

From page K1

One captivating moment of the concert was the way the Philippine National Anthem was played and sung. It was done in three languages! The first version was in Spanish, "Filipinas", sung by a lady soprano of the San Miguel Master Chorale, followed by the American version, "The Philippine Hymn", sung by an all male-quartet, then capped by the present-day Filipino version, "Lupang Hinirang," this time rendered in full force by the orchestra and master chorale.

July 10, 2006-Thanksgiving Mass at the Holy Family Chapel, Greenhills Shopping Center

A quiet mass was celebrated on the day of the company's anniversary, attended by its general partners, executives; employees and the Ortigas family. Breakfast followed beside the lagoon of Greenhills Shopping Center.

July 21, 2006 - Thanksgiving Dinner at the Wack-wack Golf & Country Club and the launch of the OCLP 75th anniversary commemorative stamps

To cap the series of anniversary- related activities, the company held an intimate dinner at the Wack-Wack Country Club's William J. Shaw Pavilion. It was again attended by its general partners, business partners, friends, family and employees and no other than President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The evening was also made more significant with the unveiling of its 75th anniversary commemorative stamps.

The company designed two stamps: The P7 commemorative stamp shows the boundaries of the original "Hacienda de Mandaloyon" 75 years ago; the P26 commemorative stamp shows the 30-year-old Ortigas Building at the foreground of modern day Ortigas Business District.

Appearing on both stamps is the logo commemorating the 75th anniversary of the company July 10. At the bottom of the stamp is the vision of the company, "Value Driven. Partner of Choice", that serves as a guide for all its endeavors.

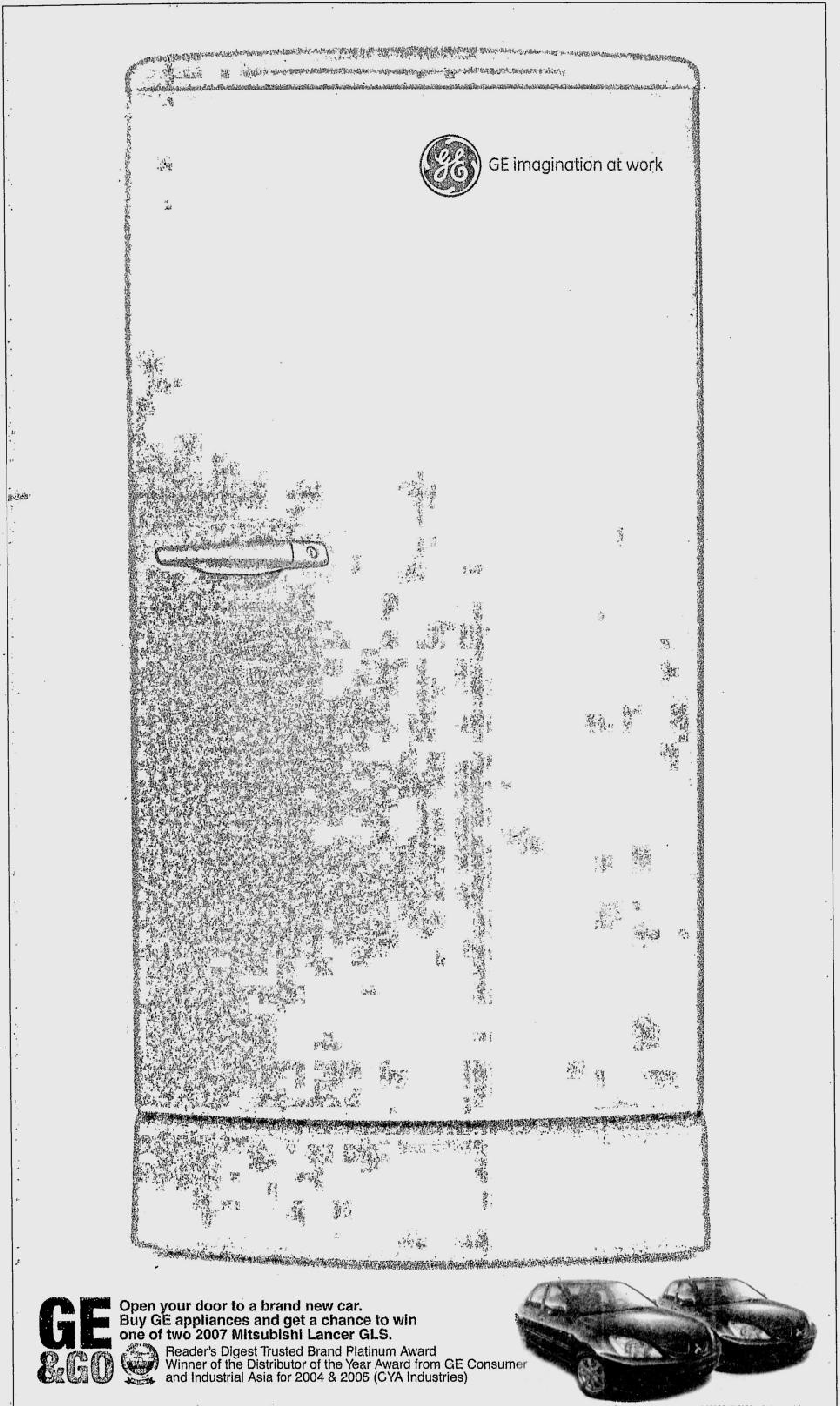
WOW! 0% installment promo ongoing

AS A WAY OF PROVIDING VALUE-ADDED incentives to its ever growing clientele, WOW!, the best selling magic sing, announces its "0% Installment Madness Promo". Now you can enjoy easy-on-the-pocket installment schemes of 6 to 12 months at 0 percent interest.

Get the latest WOW! Silver Fiesta Edition for only P745.84 per month and the Mabuhay Edition for only P954.16 per month. Complete your videoke collection-purchase a duet microphone and Tagalog song chips for as low as P575 per month! Take home your new WOW with a free tarsy bag when you avail of the 0-percent installment promo.

Take advantage of this promo. Visit Odyssey, Astrovision, Astroplus, Abenson, Automatic Center, Western Appliances, Robinsons Appliance, Avid AV Surfer, Electronic Boutique and other participating dealers nationwide. Promo runs from July 28 to Sept. 30.

WOW! Magic Sing is exclusively distributed by . In-A-Jiffy Enterprises/G2K Corp. For more information call 362-1566, 361-9450 or log on to www.wowcountry.com.ph.



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Winner of the Distributor of the Year Award from GE Consumer and Industrial Asia for 2004 & 2005 (CYA Industries)

Sharp Flat TV: A feast for the eyes and ears!

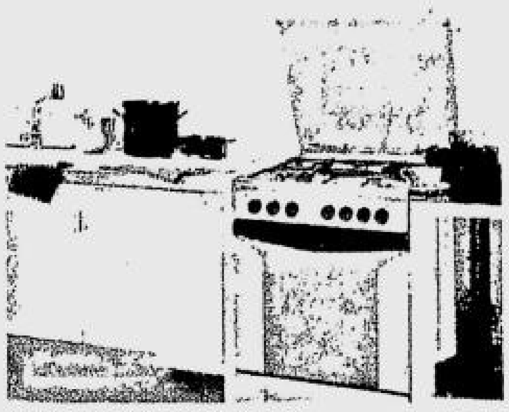
WOULD YOU RATHER SEE VIBRANT images at home or listen to great sounds on the radio? Sharp Flat TV lets you do both.

With its unparalleled image quality, see the world in a whole new light with a Sharp Flat TV. Apart from enhancing the quality and function of a home entertainment system, its sleek and stylish models also enhance the interiors of a home. And with energy saving features and easy-does-it adjustment settings for video and audio, it's no surprise Sharp has been showing remarkable success especially for its line of flat screen TVs.

And now, with the Sights and Sounds promo, Sharp is throwing in something for the ears, too! Each purchase of a Sharp 25, 29 or 34 inch Flat TV automatically comes with a free MP3 player. Those who opt for a 21 inch flat TVs will also be in for a treat as the MP3 player comes free with an additional P298. That's certainly something that will make Sharp Flat TV buyers extra pleased with their purchase.

The Sights and Sounds promo is available at Sharp dealers nationwide and runs from July 1 to September 30.

Sights and Sounds MP3 players, the "It" thing these days, can be yours free with each purchase of a Sharp 25, 29 or 34 inch Flat TV! Buyers of 21 inch Sharp Flat TVs may also get them by simply adding P298 to their purchase. The Sights and Sounds promo is available at Sharp dealers nationwide and runs from July 1 to September 30.



Ariston introduces Indesit Cookers

ARISTON AND INDESIT BRANDS OF COOKING appliances may not be as familiar to you as other locally available brands, but for the dream kitchen you want to have, these are undoubtedly the brands for you.

They are the only cookers in the market that are completely built-up in Europe. And for those in the know, European-made appliances are preferred and recognized for their superior quality and style. Ariston and Indesit brands are authentic Italian brands. As such, the reputation of Italy for sophistication, class, and elegance are the defining characteristics of their products.

These brands come from the Indesit Company, the leading appliance manufacturer in Europe. The 30-year-old Indesit Company has 20 production plants equipped with the most modern manufacturing facilities like the high-tech anthropomorphic machinery. Manned by 20,000 employees, it annually produces over 14 million appliances that generate over 3 billion Euros in sales.

If you ask any Italian about the brands available in the Philippines that claim they are "Made in Italy", you will surely get a dumbfounded reaction. These so-called Italian brands and products are simply never heard of in that country. The fact is, in Italy, the brands Ariston and Indesit (both produced by Indesit Company) are synonymous to cookers, ranges tops and ovens.

For information on what appliances will suit your dream kitchen, consult the kitchen product specialists at the new Ariston/Indesit showrooms on the 4th Level of Shangri-La Plaza (631-8282), 4th level Glorietta 4, Ayala Center (815-8429) or at the MC Home Depot, Fort Bonifacio (815-8875).

Geox: A success story

BORN IN THE EARLY '90S FROM THE inventiveness of Mario Moretti Polegato-Geox founder and major shareholder, Geox growth in Europe has been a phenomenal success.

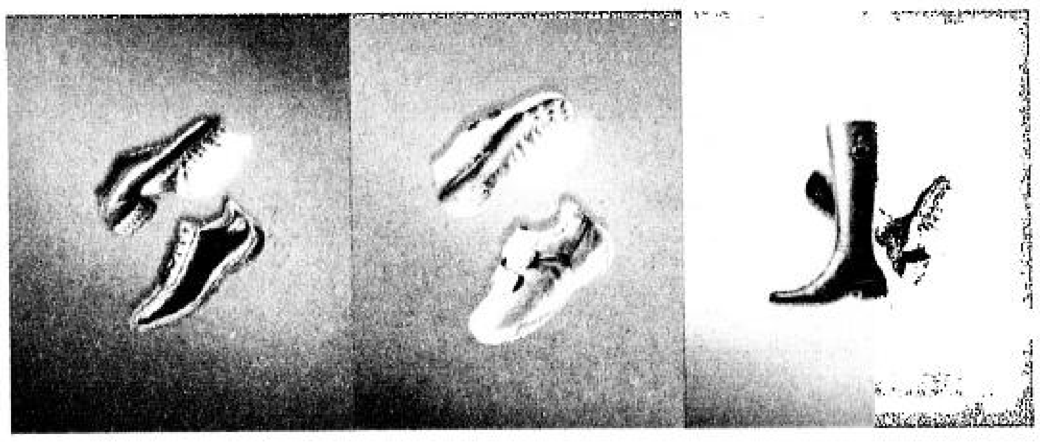
The idea of a rubber shoe that lets the foot breathe has addressed the specific need of health-conscious consumers, who were receptive to an innovation second only to the introduction of rubber-made outsoles in the late '40s/early '50s.

The origin of the company is closely linked to the personal history of its founder, Mario Moretti Polegato.

When at a wine industry conference in Reno, Nevada, Mario suffered from torrid heat during his daily jogging. His rubber shoes were great in cushioning and support, but were a heat chamber for his feet.

Unhappy with the situation, he cut a couple of holes in his outsoles in order to balance the temperature, in a way that was going to change his entrepreneurial status forever.

Once back in Italy, he developed his intuition into a viable product, thanks to his access to a small leather-goods business his family owned.



When the first prototypes were ready, Mario tried to market and sell his product idea to established shoemaking companies, both at a national and international level.

Mario decided to establish Geox - the name coming from the Greek word "geo" (earth) plus an 'x'-standing for technology. Geox would design, manufacture and market a new type of shoe - the shoe that breathes. All this happened in 1990.

The Geox breathes patented system features micro-holes in the rubber outsole that let perspiration from the feet out of the shoes. The protective breathable membrane keeps water out and the feet dry.

The Geox outsole challenged the historical perception of holes in shoes-the first step of the Geox revolution. The Geox revolution has been made possible after extensive research and development of the membrane, made of a special microporous material, which absorbs sweat through the insole and expels it in the form of water vapor.

This process is made possible as the membrane's micro-pores are larger than water vapor molecules, but smaller than water droplets - hence keeping water out and the feet dry.

It is natural to sweat through the feet-what is unhealthy is to keep the sweat inside of the shoes.

By gradually eliminating humidity from the inside of the shoe, the Geox breathes patented system allows balancing the ideal microclimate inside of the footwear, with the result of balanced temperature and dry feet.

Crystal
Crystal

Face the crystal clear difference

It feels good to be noticed, and when you feel beautiful, you tend to radiate confidence and power

YOUR SKIN, IN PARTICULAR, THE FACIAL skin, serves as your armor, a shield from various harmful elements. Because of the exposure it receives, your face is the most delicate skin on your body that would need special care to stay young, healthy, and beautiful. Yet when was the last time you really thought about what you need to do to take care of it?

The first step to taking care of your skin is preventing damage. Sun, wind, pollutants, and simply aging can degrade the condition of your skin. A skin care routine does not have to be elaborate in order to be effective. What you need is the right combination of beauty product, one that's different, not too commercialized yet gives an equally improved look on the skin, gently, naturally and effectively.

This is not one but the power of two: a beauty duo that can transform a dull-looking, aging skin to a new, flawless look. Crystal Facial Mask and Moisturizer pride itself in giving that clearer, glowing skin that, as the brand suggests, is simply like crystal. Crystal is one beauty product innovation that veers away from the normal single-effect promise or result. Its components can be your reliable detoxifying, pore-refining, whitening, and revitalizing, anti-aging facial beauty regimen. And if these are not enough, Crystal Facial Mask and Moisturizer, with its enriched Vitamin B3, B5 and E can improve blood circulation and helps regenerate new skin cells.

Feeling beautiful is part of what makes us women. It feels good to be noticed, and when you feel beautiful, you tend to radiate confidence and power. It is inherent in our nature to want to feel feminine and look and feel our best, and there is nothing wrong with it, as long as it is not all-consuming.

Crystal is made available at Cluster 2, Tutuban Center Mall or for inquiries, call 251-0169.

American Express offers option to enjoy travel

IN RESPONSE TO FORECASTS THAT the affluent, led by business travelers, will be logging in more air miles in the coming years, American Express Peso Platinum Card is differentiating itself in the crowded Philippine credit card industry by offering more extensive travel-related rewards for Cardmembers.

The new 2006 Membership Rewards Catalogue lists six frequent flier partners providing access to over 40 airlines and over 100 hotels within Asia Pacific from whom Cardmembers can redeem free air-tickets and hotel stays using their Membership Reward (MR) points. American Express has arranged for conversion of MR points to room nights for Cardmembers through direct tie-ups with Sheraton, Marriott, Renaissance and other prestigious hotel groups as well as hotel loyalty program partners. The hotel loyalty program partners provide access to over 5,000 hotels worldwide.

According to Grace D. Limjap, marketing head of American Express, top executives who make up a significant portion of the Peso Platinum Card market are expected to be traveling more as they realize the impact of a global economy. Studies have shown that executives on business trips generally enjoy traveling because of the new experiences it offers.

"Our goal is to reward them by maximizing travel opportunities for them and whoever they would like to share these with," she said. Opportunities may include redeeming points for air tickets and hotel stays for the spouse and family or even a tour of the Sydney Aquarium.

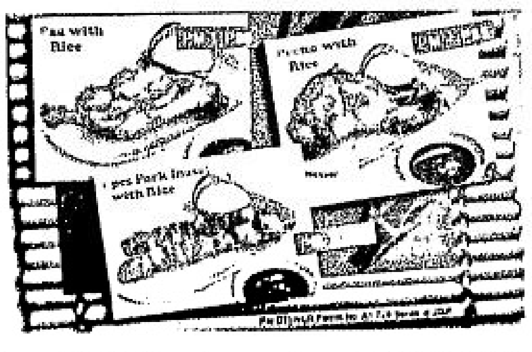
In addition to travel, the new 2006 Membership Reward Catalogue also offers lifestyle and home products from well respected brands and a variety of shopping, dining and experiential vouchers, according to Melissa A. Lopez, product executive for loyalty. The lifestyle selection offers the newest gadgets and gizmos, electronics, personal appliances, toys and even magazines. A new section focuses on health and beauty and allows card members to redeem vouchers from Frank Provost, Institute Clarins, Healthy Options and Kerastase.

Lopez said: "We have anticipated the desires of our Cardmembers and can offer them Plasma TVs as well as Pilates classes and Conde Nast Traveller magazines." She added that the rewards program allows members to redeem points for donations to charities like Children's Hour, Foundation for Professional Training (Punlaan School), Philippine National Red Cross and World Vision among others.

There is also an ongoing promotion that allows card members to earn double Membership Rewards points when they use their Card at Urban Spa at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall up to Dec. 31.

Limjap noted that American Express has over 100 years experience in dealing with the affluent. The company's latest study on affluent individuals in the Asia Pacific region shows that they seek freedom from the complexity of luxury choices, a privilege that is clearly reflected in the 2006 Membership Rewards Catalogue.

Mang Inasal opens at Mall of Asia



Today marks another significant event in the fast food industry as Iloilo's pride, Mang Inasal, the phenomenal barbecue fast food chain, is set to hold its grand opening. Special guests, friends from the media and the who's who in society are expected to grace the occasion. Highlights of the event are the traditional blessing of the store at 11 a.m., shower of 8,888 pieces of coins for good luck to early well wishers, the Kaibigan Kard which entitles recipient to 10-percent discounts during their visit at Mang Inasal Mall of Asia branch, and to top it all, the buy-one-take-one offer on any Mang Inasal Paborito meals. These PM meals are: Paa w/ Rice P80; Pecho w/ Rice P85; and two pieces of Pork Inasal w/ Rice at P78 only on the grand opening day. At present, there are Mang Inasal branches already making barbecue lovers happy at the Harbor Center, CCP Complex, Metropolis in Alabang, SM Sta. Rosa Laguna, Dazma Robinsons, SM Bicutan and SM Mall of Asia. Mang Inasal currently has 16 branches in Bacolod, Iloilo, Roxas, Davao and Koronadal. For more inquiries about Mang Inasal, as well as franchising opportunities, log on to www.manginasal.com.

Dengue protection available at the malls

WITH THE HIGH RATE OF DENGUE cases nowadays, a mother can't help but worry of how safe her kids are against this deadly disease. Dengue, being an infectious disease that is transmitted by mosquitoes, is usually characterized by rashes, aching head joints, and high fever typically lasting two to three days. According to the Department of Health, in Metro Manila alone, 4,232 cases were documented while an alarming rate of 13,468 cases nationwide was reported from January to August of this year. Of these cases were 183 deaths. Not only that, but most disturbing of all is that 70 percent are children-related.

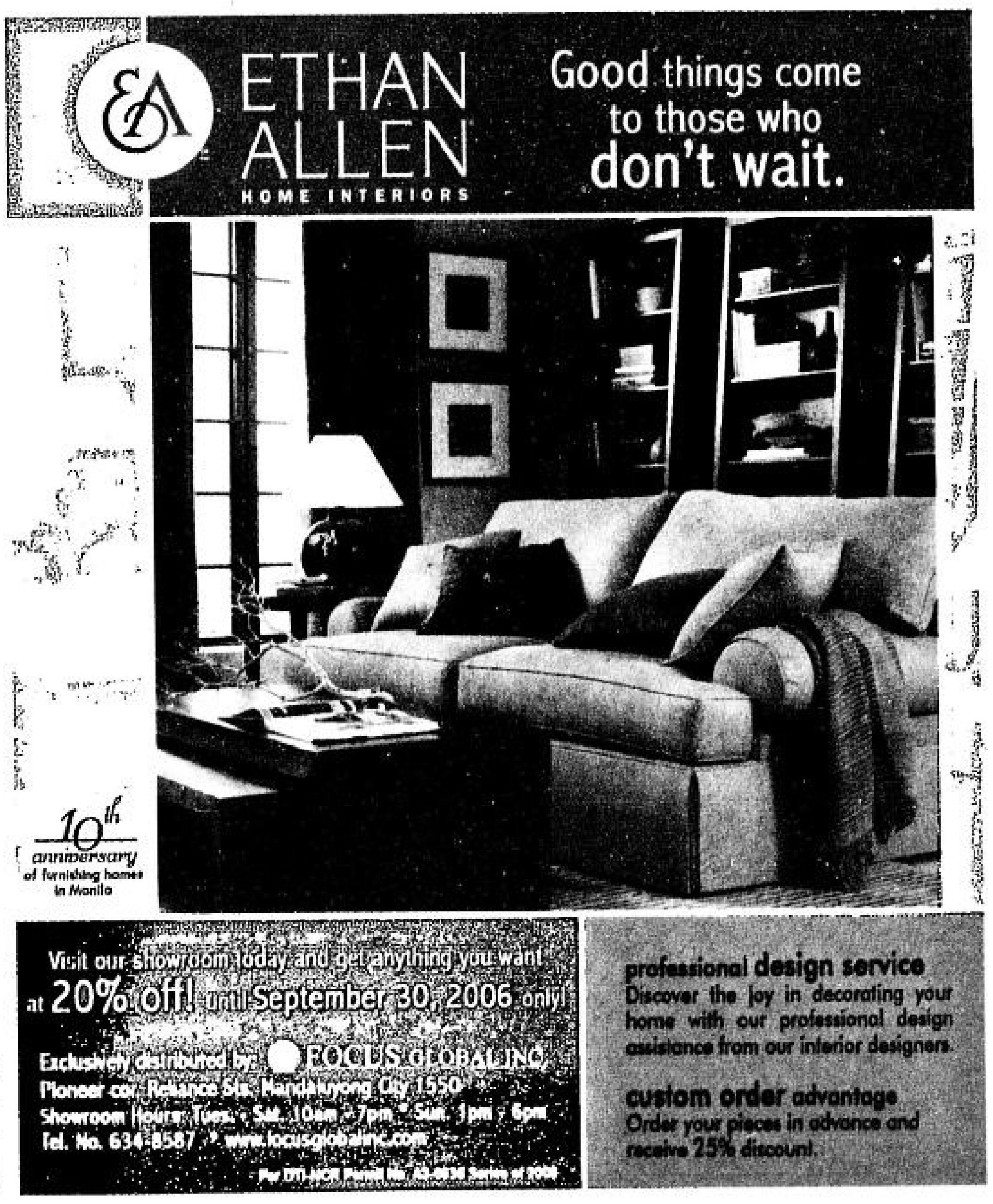
Presenting the Bug Off Insect Repelling Wristband. What makes the Bug-Off insect repellant work? Simply remove the Bug Off! Insect Repelling Wrist Band from the reusable container and slip it around your wrist and its secretly formulated aroma will help keep those deadly mosquitoes away.

So why choose the Bug-Off insect repellant for your kids?

- No Deet, no chemical-based insecticide, and no side effects-it is safe, non-toxic, and makes use of plant oil-based ingredients such as citronella, lemon grass, and geranial.
- No spray, nothing to apply.
- Coiled Band - fashionable and easy to keep and put on
- Non-greasy - will not stain, is waterproof, and oil does not rub off
- Great for outdoor as well as indoor use
- Long-lasting reusable container preserves scent for up to 180 hours
- 3 Models Available- for kids, adults, and a glow-in-the-dark variant

It's the best deal. It lets you save up on cost without sacrificing quality. And for only P180 lasting as much as 22 days with eight hours use each day, you can be sure to ward off those annoying mosquitoes. Plus, you won't have difficulties having your kids wear them, with its funky fashionable look. Here's to worry-free mommies and dengue-safe kids.

Look for Bug-Off at Ariston/Indesit showrooms: Level 4, Shangri-La Showroom (631-8282), 4th Level, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center (815-8429), and at the MC Home Depot, Fort Bonifacio (815-8875).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Canon Marketing (Philippines), Inc.
2/F Marvin Plaza Building, 2153 Don Chino Roces Avenue cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City
Tel No 884-9000, Fax No 810-9797 Email info@canon.com.ph
Offer good from August 18 - September 30, 2006
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4085 Series of 2006

Olympic Village introduces Stress Busters

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The Stress Busters program is meant to boost Olympic Village's position as an "interactive" store for customers who not only can find the right pair of sneakers or apparel to suit a particular sport, but be able to discover fun ways of beating out stress by indulging in in-store physical fitness activities.

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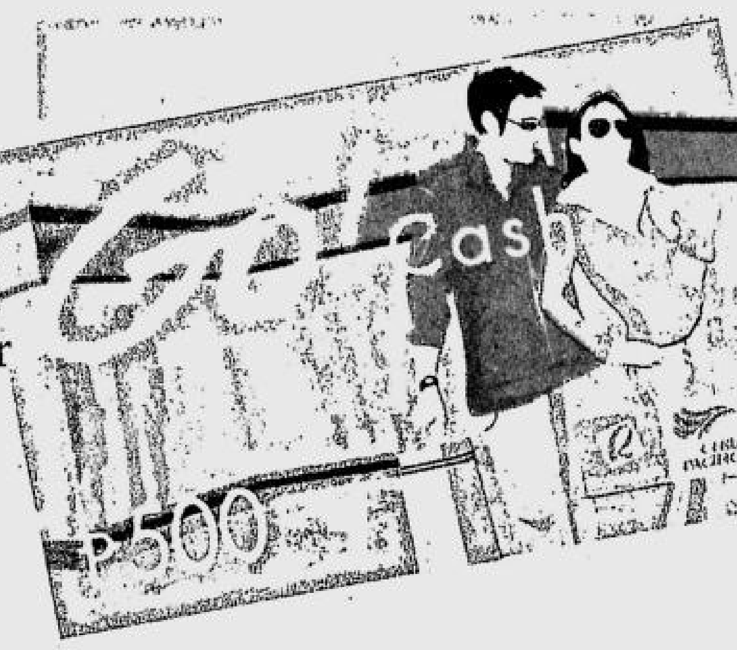

2 firsts scored with launch of the Go! MasterCard

MASTERCARD SCORED TWO FIRSTS with the introduction of the Go! MasterCard in the Philippines. The card is the first conglomerate and travel-and-shop card in the Philippines. It also gives cardholders a more fun and flexible way of choosing rewards under the Go! Cash Prepaid Gift Card MasterCard Electronic-the first gift card issued by MasterCard anywhere around the globe under the MasterCard Electronic Selective Authorization Program.

A collaboration between Metrobank Card Corp, Cebu Pacific (CEB) and Robinsons retail group, the Go! MasterCard is an ideal credit card for frequent travelers and shoppers. Not only does the Go! MasterCard let cardholders buy more at Robinsons retail group's numerous establishments, it also lets them fly more via Cebu Pacific, the Filipino travelers' airline of choice.

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"The gift card complements the unprecedented rewards system of the Go! MasterCard, making shopping and traveling more enjoyable for cardholders," said Anne Young, president, Metrobank Card Corp, a subsidiary of Metrobank, the largest bank in the Philippines.

To get a Go! Cash Prepaid Gift Card MasterCard Electronic cardholders must keep using their Go! MasterCard to accumulate 500 points. On accumulation of these points, cardholders can redeem a Go! Cash Prepaid Gift Card MasterCard Electronic worth P500, under the Go! Rewards program. Every time cardholders use the Go! MasterCard, they earn one point for every P200 charged to their Go! MasterCard and two points for transactions made at Robinsons Retail establishments and Cebu Pacific ticket offices and website.

"The Go! MasterCard rewards program is our way of thanking loyal customers for their continuous patronage of our stores and services," said Lance Gokongwei, president and COO of JG Summit Holdings Inc, the holding company of Robinsons retail group and Cebu Pacific.

Go! MasterCard also includes other features like the Go! Credit Back option at Cebu Pacific for travelers, which can be availed of within 30 calendar days upon purchase of a Cebu Pacific ticket charged to the Go! MasterCard. If travelers have accumulated enough points to cover the ticket cost, the amount will be credited back to their Go! MasterCard, practically allowing them to fly for free.

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BPI EXPRESS CREDIT
REAL
Pre-Christmas Installment madness
August 30 - September 17, 2006
Glorietta Activity Center
now is the time to do your Christmas shopping!
Increase Your Buying Power Up To 3X**
BONUS! BPI's 155TH ANNIVERSARY
Get A Chance To WIN WHAT YOU BUY up to P155,000****
FREE! BURGER KING Whopper Jr. Value Meal***
S.I.P.

Right here at the most-awaited shopping event offering a maddening array of choices: from appliances, cameras, cellphones, computers, furniture, gadgets, even motorcycles and sports equipment through these participating merchants.

APPLIANCES
Abenson • Ambassador Appliances • Anson's • Ariston • Automatic Centre • CCAC (Carrier/Condura) • GE • Hitachi • Indesit • JVC • Kolin/Syntax • LG Electronics • Nextbase • Panasonic • Philips • Pioneer • Samsung • Sanyo • Sharp • SM Appliance • Sogo • Sony • Toshiba • Waltermart • Western Marketing • Whirlpool

COMPUTERS & GADGETS
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FURNITURE & KITCHEN ACCESSORIES
Ambiance One • Blims • Home Options • Home Plus • Tefal

OTHERS
Casio • Manila Imperial Motor Sales • Naomi/Lorenzo Jewelry • Sportshouse • Timex

GIFTS AND NOVELTIES (STORE LEVEL ONLY)
Gift Gate (Glorietta 2) • Sanrio Photo Gallery (Glorietta 2) • Seque (Glorietta 2) • Swatch (Glorietta 4)

* On selected items and terms.
** Your SIP Credit limit increased up to 3X your Regular Credit Limit. Your maximum purchase will depend on the number of years you have been a BPI Cardholder. To know your promotional SIP limit, call BPI ExpressPhone 89-100.
*** For a minimum single purchase (one transaction receipt) of P3,000.00 using any of his BPI Express Credit cards.
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See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-680 and 2932, Series of 2006.

VillMan COMPUTER SYSTEMS INC glorietta
BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
A tradition of leadership

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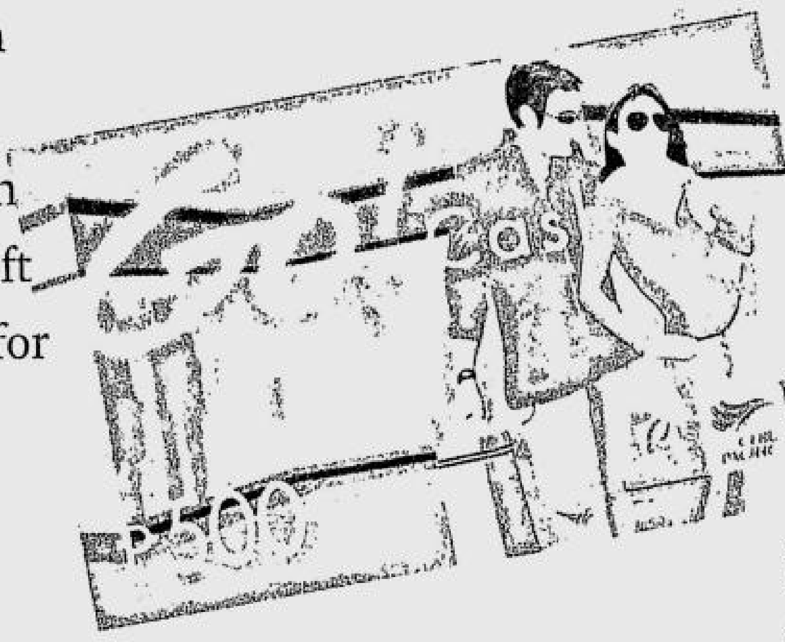

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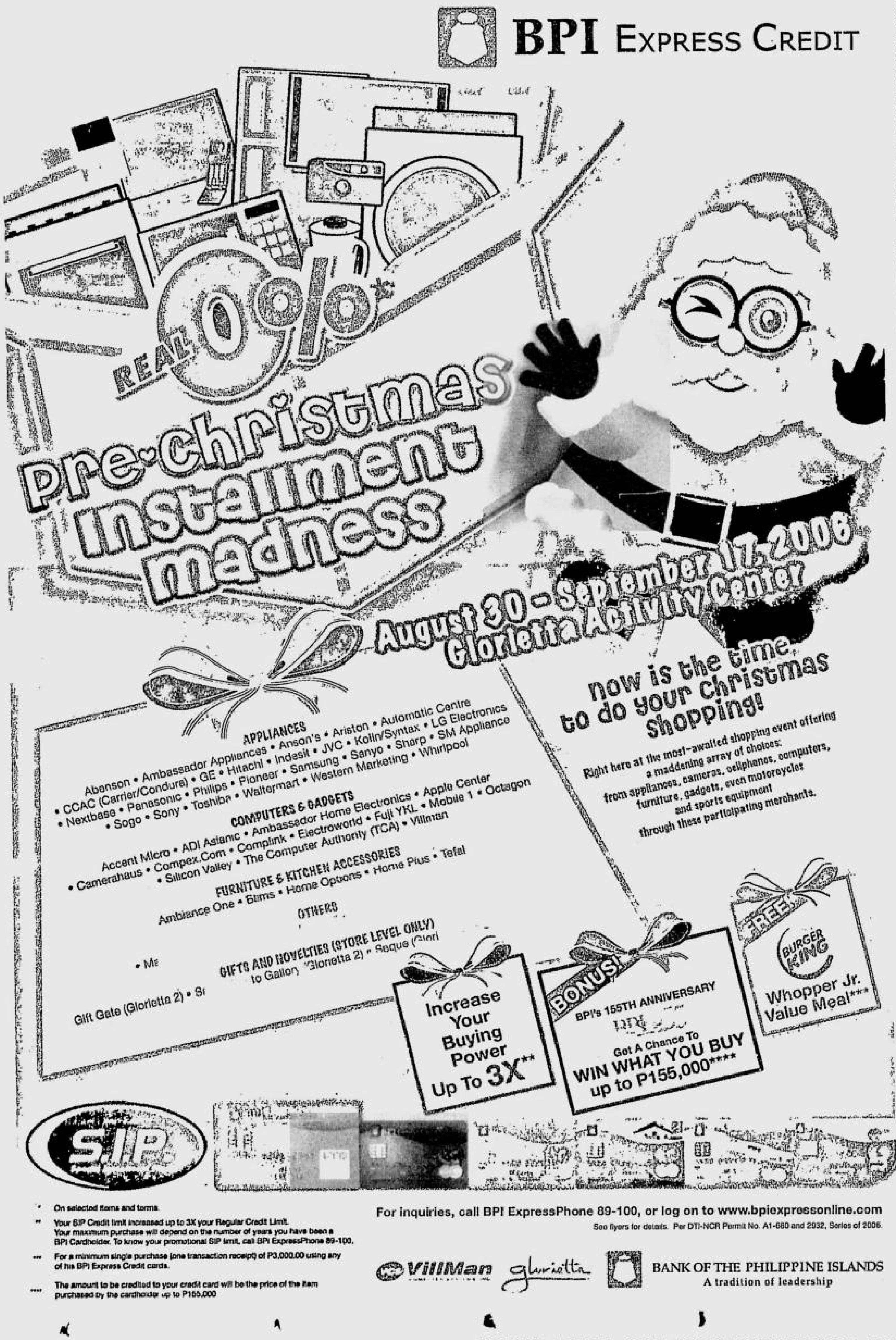
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• Me

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Gift Gate (Glorietta 2) • S

For inquiries, call BPI ExpressPhone 89-100, or log on to www.bpiexpressonline.com
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BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
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RETAKE OF PRECEDING FRAME

AIG® Credit Cards **ABENSON**

OVER 1 MILLION POINTS GIVE AWAY!

ABENSON
Plus!

ABENSON
Plus!
REWARDS PROGRAM
7700 0001

Plus! REWARDS PROGRAM

Get a chance to win!
100,000
Plus! points
and
100 winners of
10,000
Plus! points

Double chances of winning for AIG Cardholders

ABSOLUTELY GREAT APPLIANCE DEAL PLUS! EARN ADDITIONAL BONUS POINTS

0% interest installment is applicable on selected items provided monthly bill is paid in full. Subject to bank approval
Prices and Specification may vary without prior notice. Terms and condition apply

Thinking of you
Electrolux

Electrolux - the Thoughtful Company that Puts You First

Imagine what a thoughtful home would look like - where everything works beautifully, simply, intuitively.

This is what Electrolux envisions for its consumers and such a vision begins with ideas that spring from "Thinking of You". The Electrolux name was once equated with vacuum cleaners and direct-selling and while it still makes the best vacuum cleaners in the world and holds the number one spot in that market, the company has extended its excellence in cleaning appliances to a wide range of home solutions.

Today, Electrolux has become one of the world's most trusted names by providing products that understand consumers.

The Man Behind the Thoughtful Company
Electrolux Philippines Inc. shares in the vision of making products relevant, innovative and well-designed. The man behind the company, Thomas Hong, leads the way in building the Electrolux brand and aims to make it the Filipinos' number one choice of electronic appliances by transforming it into a truly Thoughtful Company.

With a background of taking on regional roles from the Middle East to Asia, Hong has been immersed in many cultures and brings with him more than ten years of experience in the electronics business having worked with the world's major electronics brands.

"Seek first to understand then be understood." Hong upholds this saying as a leader and believes in the need to be human - to feel, to understand, to communicate, to affirm and to celebrate. He sees the motivation that arises from genuine human connections and infuses in his team the thoughtfulness that drives Electrolux to innovate for the better. He asserts, "We offer products that really showcase what Electrolux is about - whenever we create, we are really thinking of the consumer."

What does it mean to be thoughtful? Electrolux's thoughtfulness starts from the conception of an idea and goes on to develop the product into a solution - something that makes life a bit easier. Because you think that only hand washing can really clean clothes both thoroughly and gently, the Electrolux EW 880 F Frontload Washer was made to apply the same hand washing techniques to ensure your clothes are always laundry fresh without wearing them out.

Hong expounds on the frontload's unique qualities, explaining that the washer thinks about the forgetful ones who realize they've left out clothes when the washing has already started, so it features a function that allows you to add clothes during the cycle while still ensuring a good cleaning. This thoughtful washer also thinks about the people whose clothes don't need to undergo a full program so it has the Quick Cycle option for a speedy, moderate washing that cares for clothes according to your needs.

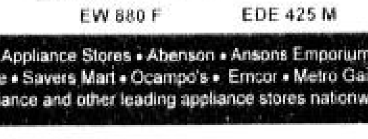
Marketing Savvy that Thinks of You
Hong shares "We invest a lot in building the brand, and this does not mean placing a lot of ads but allowing the brand to personify its identity" and Electrolux is making itself known as the Thoughtful Company. More than its products, he emphasizes the care that Electrolux puts into its main touch points with customers.

First, he highlights the importance of the storefront experience, which is often the first encounter the customer has with the brand. He and his team have fully revamped store merchandising to exude a truly Electrolux feel of care, comfort, nurture and trust. Well-designed displays are not simply an appeal to aesthetics but an outward expression of the value of customers to the company.

Backing the new look of Electrolux with substance is its sales team. Hong regards them as integral to building a Thoughtful Company as they embody an overflow of the careful thought that is put into every product. He ensures that his sales team guides the customer's decision-making with integrity by implementing employee ownership and loan programs that allow the Electrolux staff to experience the brand and work towards its vision with conviction.

Understanding the need for support and reliability, Hong fortifies the company's customer services. From a toll-free number for customer inquiries, concerns or requests to fully-equipped service teams dedicated to home visits, Electrolux distinguishes itself as a service-oriented company that always thinks of you. He affirms, "We ensure that the service team is there when you need them and are prepared to offer genuine help."

In managing Electrolux Philippines Inc., Hong instills in his team a very clear vision - to provide Filipino families with a complete kitchen and home solution that stems from thoughtful innovation and consumer insight. With Electrolux at the forefront, a home where everything works beautifully, simply, intuitively isn't so hard to imagine.

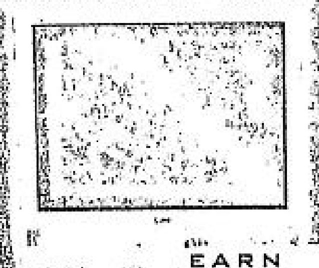


EW 880 F EDE 425 M

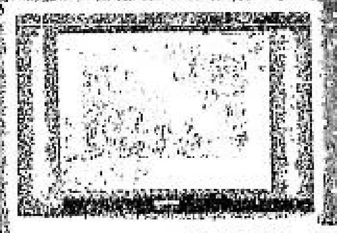
Electrolux Philippines, Inc.
Customer Care Trunkline: 829-0801
Domestic Toll Free No. 1-800-1-888-0801

Available at: SM Appliance Stores • Abenson • Ansons Emporium
Automatic Centre • Savers Mart • Ocampo's • Emcor • Metro Gaisano
Robinson's Appliance and other leading appliance stores nationwide

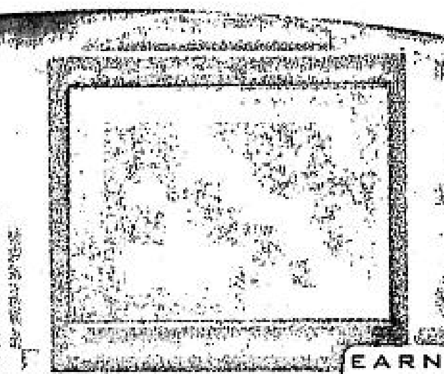
LG
21FX4AL
21" Two Tone Luxurious Design, Picture Status Memory, Digital Acoustic Surround Processor Stereo, Child Lock
9,999 cash
833.25/mo for 12months
0% 12 MOS | FREE TV RACK | EARN Plus! 1200 BONUS POINTS



LG
21FB3RB
2-Tone Space Saving, Bottom Speaker, AV Multi System, 5W Speaker X2, 5 Picture Mode
7,999 cash
2,666/mo for 3months
0% 3 MOS. | FREE TV RACK | EARN Plus! 200 BONUS POINTS

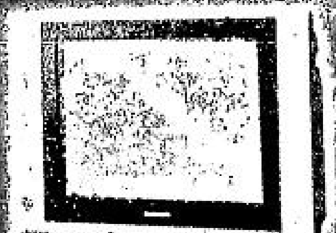


SAMSUNG
CT21Z40
21" Slim Depth, DNIE & DHR, 2 Tone Color, AV Multi System, Picture Select Mode, Turbo Sounds, Blue Screen
12,985 cash
1,082/mo for 12months
0% 12 MOS | FREE TV RACK | EARN Plus! 1200 BONUS POINTS



0% 12 MOS | Add P500.00 FOR TV RACK | ADDITIONAL P999 FOR DVD PLAYER DVPNS51 | EARN Plus! 600 BONUS POINTS

SONY
KV-SR292N83K
Wega Gate Navigation, FM Radio, 3D Woofer Box (6,800cc), Party Mode (with microphone in), 5 Band Graphic Equalizer, TruSurround WOW
29,990 cash
2,499/mo for 12months



Panasonic
TC-21FX30P
21" Flat Colour TV, Twin Digital Comb Filter, Virtual Hyper Base & 5 Band Equalizer, Environment Friendly Design
11,690 cash
975/mo for 12months
0% 12 MOS | FREE TV RACK | EARN Plus! 200 BONUS POINTS

ADDITIONAL P999 FOR JVC MP3 PLAYER
0% 24 MOS. | EARN Plus! 800 BONUS POINTS

JVC
MG30U
1/6inch 680,000 pixel CCD, 25x Optical Zoom, 800x Digital Zoom, 112k-pixel 2.5inch amorphous silicon TFT LCD, High-Quality MPEG-2 Video Recording
44,990 cash
1,875/mo for 24months

0% 12 MOS. | EARN Plus! 400 BONUS POINTS

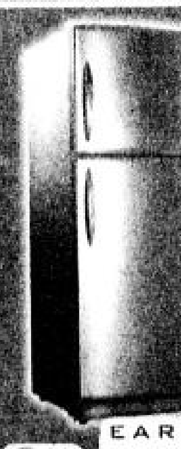
JVC
GR-D350
1/6inch 800k pixel CCD (Number of effective pixels: 400k pixels for moving pictures), F2.0 - 4.5, 32x Optical Zoom/800x Digital Zoom, 2.5" LCD, 520 Lines of Resolution
21,990 cash
1,833/mo for 12months

EARN Plus! 300 BONUS POINTS

LG
LG MC7645B Silver
Pull out door open type, Smart LED Display, Auto Cook, Auto Roast, Quick Defrost, Child Lock Function
14,995 cash

0% 3 MOS. | EARN Plus! 1500 BONUS POINTS

Electrolux
WR3106D White
10 cu ft Refrigerator, No Frost
22,500 cash
7,500/mo for 3months

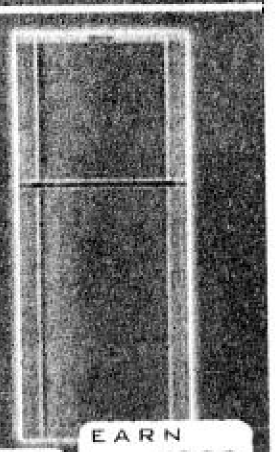


0% 6 MOS. | EARN Plus! 1500 BONUS POINTS

Whirlpool
WSN11SS
10.5 cu ft Refrigerator, No Frost Stainless Steel
25,995 cash
4,332/mo for 6months

0% 3 MOS. | EARN Plus! 1000 BONUS POINTS

Panasonic
NR-B805AC S.White
8 cu ft Refrigerator, EEF:218
16,399 cash
5,466/mo for 3months

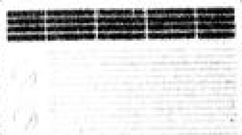


0% 3 MOS. | EARN Plus! 1000 BONUS POINTS

SAMSUNG
RT21MHSS
7.7 cu ft Refrigerator, Silver Gray, No Frost
13,495 cash
4,498/mo for 3months

0% 6 MOS. | EARN Plus! 300 BONUS POINTS

Carrier
WCARF010EA.
Silent as as as 37 DB Power Cooling as much as 12% More Cooling, EER as High as 11.7, 4 way Air Distribution, Auto Air Sweep
14,678 cash (New Price)
2,446/mo for 6months



EARN Plus! 1500 BONUS POINTS

LG
LA050MG
0.5 HP/5,500 KJ/hr, 10.6 EER, Manual Control 2-way air deplection, Bare Fin/Gold Fin Conde
7,999

0% 3 MOS. | EARN Plus! 400 BONUS POINTS

CONDURA
WCOD006EA
0.5 HP, EER 10.4, 13x19x18(HxWxD) Manual EA
8,764 cash (New Price)
1,460/mo for 6months

Promo Period September 1 to October 31, 2006

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2772 Series of 2006

Laundry Made Easy

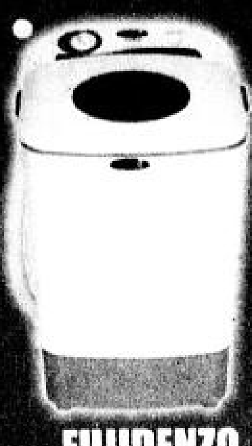
ABENSON

FREE LAUNDRY BASKET

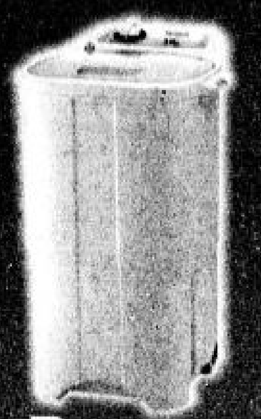
on a wide selection of washing machines

FREE
Laundry Basket

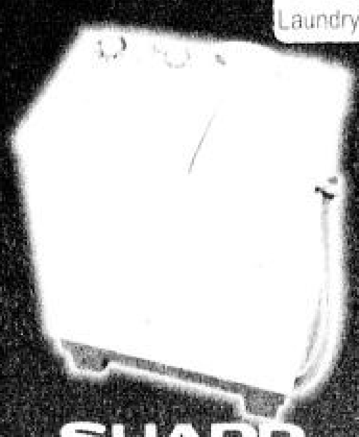
SHARP
ES-450W
4.5kg
P3,198 SRP
Super Sulit



FUJIDENZO
WS-55JC
5.5 kg
P2,898 SRP



Panasonic
NA--S505B
5 kg
P3,299 SRP

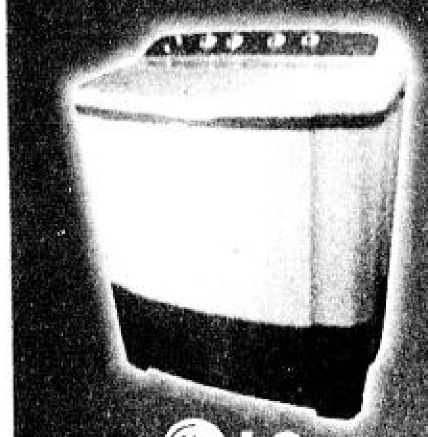


FREE
Laundry Basket

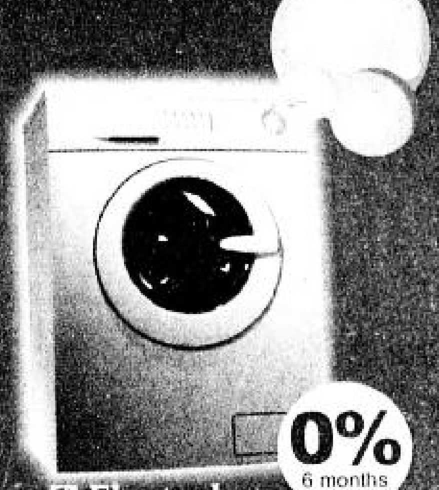
SHARP
ES-3310TSW
3.3kg wash capacity
45-min. Max Soak Function
Large Pulsator
P5,098

FREE
Laundry Basket

Panasonic
NA--W43R5W
4.3 kg
P5,899 SRP

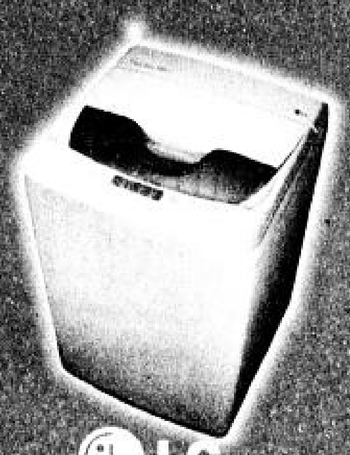


LG
WP-750R
5.0 kg
P6,995 SRP

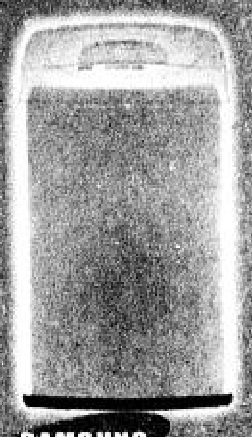


0%
6 months

Electrolux
EW880F
7 kg wash capacity
P5,500 /mo
P33,000 SRP

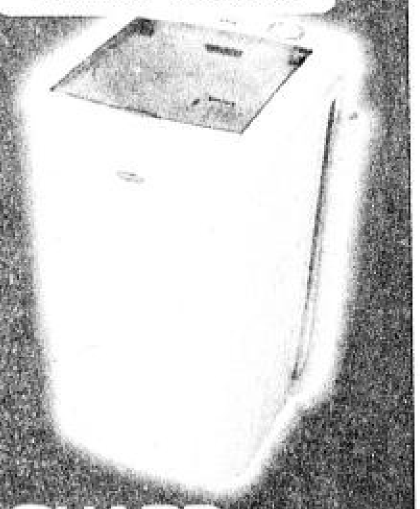


LG
WF-T6060
6.0 kgs capacity
3-step washing
4 wash programs
Plastic design
P9,595 SRP



SAMSUNG
WA60N
6.0 kg wash capacity
Pulsator
P9,695 SRP

DRIES CLOTHES FAST!
GET A SPIN DRYER



SHARP
ES-SD95
9.5 kg
P4,998 SRP

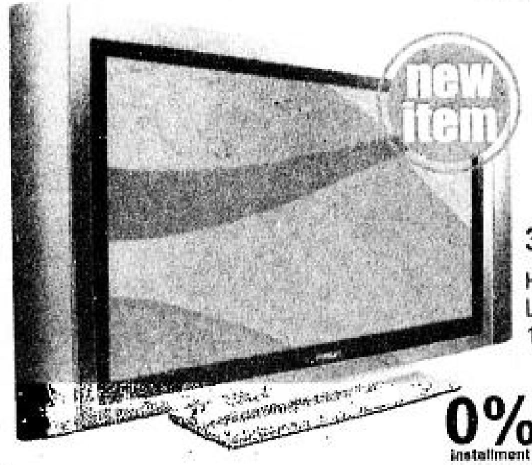
FREE Laundry basket applicable on selected SHARP & PANASONIC washing machines.
Valid until September 30, 2006

0% interest installment is applicable on selected items provided monthly bill is paid in full. Subject to bank approval. Prices and Specification may vary without prior notice. Terms and condition apply. Prices and Specification may vary without prior notice. Terms and condition apply

PHILIPS

Switch your viewing experience into overdrive.

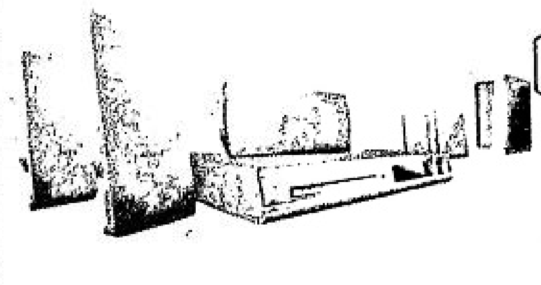
Latest Model
37" wide screen
LCD TV with
PIXEL plus



new item

37PF7321
High Definition
LCD WXGA Display
1366x768p

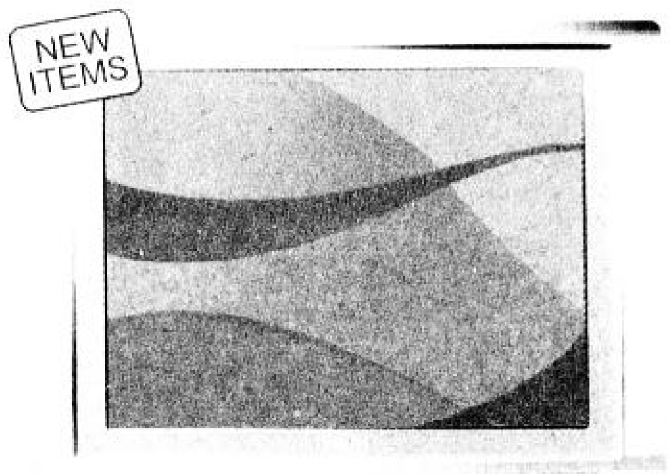
0% installment for 16 mos.
P8,888 /mo.
P159,980 cash



free item
HTS3100
DTS,
ProLogic II
Karaoke

Visit Abenson's BPI exhibit
at Glorietta and get
FREEBIES
upon purchase of
all PHILIPS Products
until September 17, 2006

Go Real Flat for an almost 3-Dimensional Feel

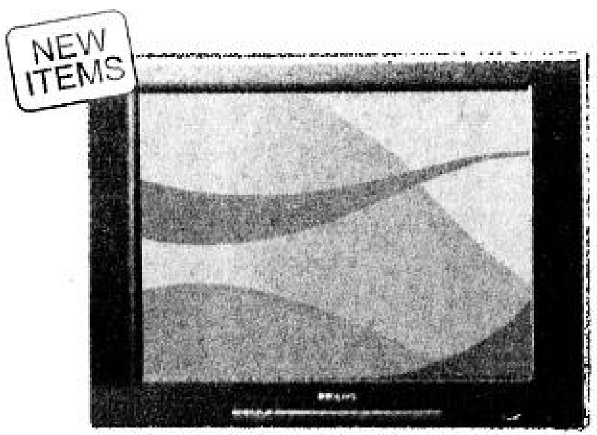


NEW ITEMS

FREE TV RACK

29PT5006
Real Flat Picture Tube
Active Control
AV Stereo

0% installment for 12 mos.
P2,248 /mo.
P26,980 cash

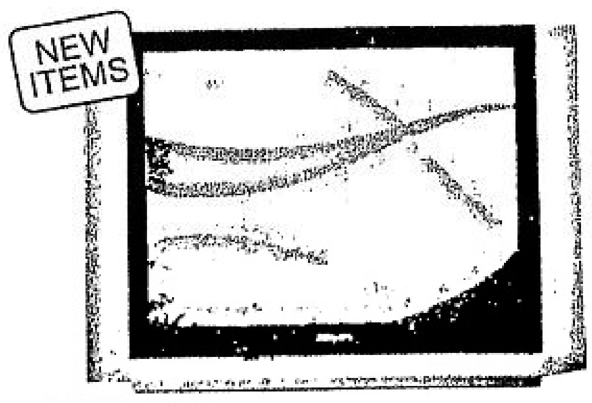


NEW ITEMS

FREE TV RACK

21PT5026
10W Music Power
Autostore, Fine Tuning
Installation
2x5W RMS

0% installment for 12 mos.
P 915 /mo.
P10,980 cash



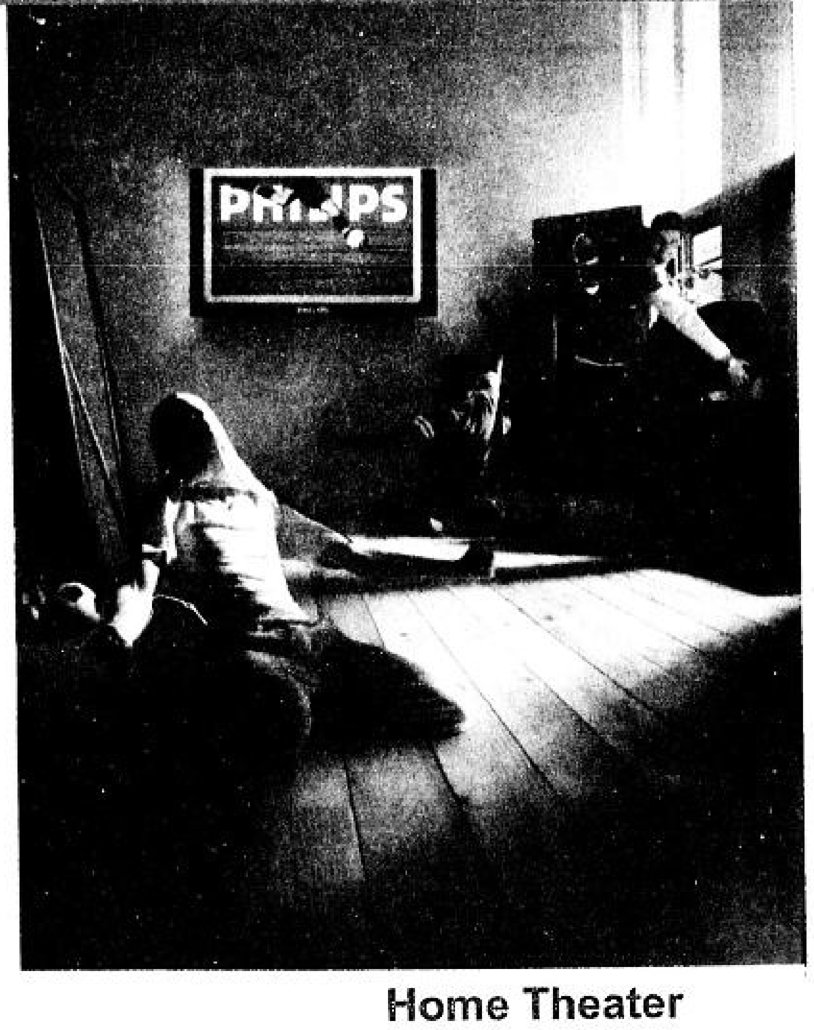
NEW ITEMS

FREE TV RACK

29PT3425
4:3 Aspect Ratio
29 in / 72 cm screen size
2 Built-In Speakers

0% installment for 12 mos.
P2,415 /mo.
P28,980 cash

with free DVD Micro Theater



Home Theater Systems that rock your world. DVD players that dazzle.

HTS4750
DVD Home Theatre System with Video Upscaling up to 1080i
- 12 bit DAC
- Progressive Scan
- Dolby Digital
- Dolby Prologic II
- DTS Stereo
- Dynamic Bass Enchancement
- Karaoke
- USB Connectivity
- MP3 Direct input
- HDMI

0% installment for 12 mos.
P2,500 /mo.
P29,990 cash

ABENSON

FREE GC UP TO P55,000

P55,000 SONY
GIFT CERTIFICATES
when you buy a Sony DLP TV on cash

LCD KS60R200A SONY
- Full HD Resolution
- 2 Mega Pixel Screen
- HD-HD Creation with DRC-MF V2
- Superb Contrast Exceeding 10,000:1 with Cinema Black Pro
- Fast Response 2.5m/sec
- 2x HDMI Input
- Frony Component +2 Rear Component Input
- PC Input (D-Sub 15pin)

GREAT VALUE DVD BUYS!

LG **2,999** cash

DV-130KND
DVD/VCD/CD/MP3/
JPEG Playback, Light and Slim Design, 3D Surround Sound

PHILIPS **2,990** cash

DVP-3015K
DVD/VCD/CD/MP3/
JPEG Playback, Compact Design, Progressive Scan

12MONTHS 0% ON MAGIC SING

11,450

MAGIC SING MABUHAY ED8000	11,450 cash	**954** /mo for 12months
MAGIC SING PAPURI ED7000	11,950 cash	**996** /mo for 12months
MAGIC SING FIESTA ED9000	8,990 cash	**749** /mo for 12months

MP3 player only P298

when you buy selected TV models

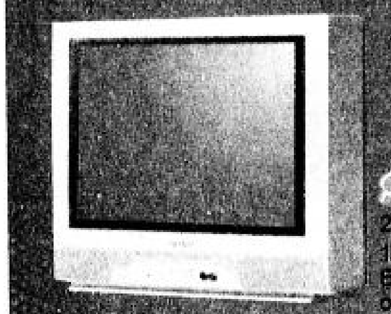
SHARP **8,498** SRP

21V-FR80M
21" Flat Screen TV
Closed Caption Decoder
Auto Search Channel
Memory

FINANCING UP TO 36 MONTHS

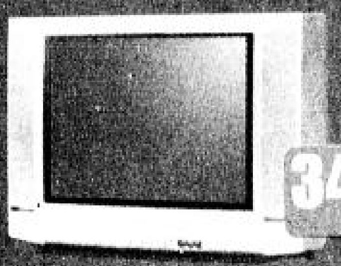
No credit card needed. Fast approval. Low monthly payments.

AS LOW AS P316 MONTHLY INSTALLMENT



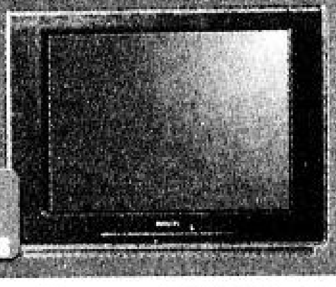
SHARP
21V-R75M
181 Channel Cable-Compatible Tuner, EZ Set-up, Three Language Menu on Screen, Energy Save Function

6998.00 cash **316**/mo 36mos



SHARP
21V-R239S
181 Channel Cable-Compatible Tuner, EZ Set-up, Three Language Menu on Screen, Energy Save Function

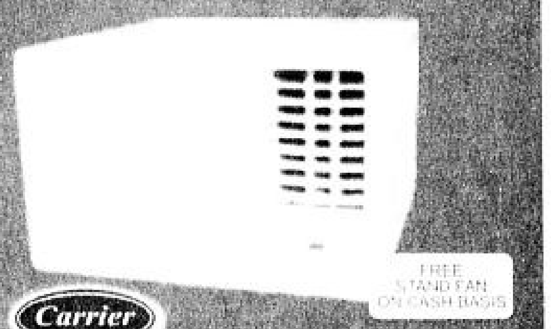
343/mo 36mos 7598.00 cash



PHILIPS
21PT5026
Real Flat picture tube, Crystal Clear, Active Control, Incredible Surround, Smart Picture and Smart Sound.

10,980 cash **496**/mo 36mos

FREE STANDFAN on window aircons



Carrier
WCARF010EA 14,678 cash
1HP Aircon,
13x19x21 Manual

First Worldwide Release of REGZA LCD TV in celebration of 130th ANNIVERSARY of TOSHIBA

Watching TV nowadays is more than just an ordinary experience. The television set has evolved to one complex appliance that should not be taken for granted. However, due to stiff market competition, the prices of LCD TV continuously drop drastically. Many other European brands have already backed out from the competition. But because of Toshiba's persistence in continuously developing new technology to improve product quality, Toshiba is now up for the competition with **REGZA LCD TV**, equipped with the superior Meta Brain Pro technology.

REGZA which stands for Real Experience Guaranteed by amaZing Architecture, is a term coined by Toshiba derived from a German word *"regsam"* which means energetic, which undeniably defines the product's superb technology that creates realistic picture and sound.

It has built in Jet Slit Speaker System strategically designed to put your viewing pleasure to the fullest. It also has HDMI or High Definition Multimedia Interface that supports any high definition digital video and multi channel audio signals. The Meta Brain Pro element meets the 5 core of visual aspects *REAL, CLEAN, CLEAR, SMOOTH and ORIGINAL*.

Unlike previous models which were being distributed in Japan and in other Asian countries under a different brand, Toshiba **REGZA LCD TV** now enjoys international recognition and is available worldwide.

Goldway Digital Equipment, Inc., the Philippine distributor of Toshiba Audio-Video products has successfully saturated the nationwide market with **REGZA LCD TV**.

TOSHIBA

meta brain PRO.

47WL66E

Experience the Real Action with REGZA

"REAL EXPRESSION" GUARANTEED BY AMAZING ARCHITECTURE

47" FULL HD 1080i PANEL

Bring the picture to life.

37"
REGZA
42"
REGZA
32"
REGZA

Experience the new **TOSHIBA REGZA LCD TV**, equipped with more sophisticated Meta Brain Pro that brings **"real-life"** image quality and crisp sound that makes viewing experience even more incomparable especially with the 47" High Definition Screen Size with 1920 x 1080 Resolution.

3-D COLOUR MANAGEMENT:
The 3D colour management system allows users to adjust the brightness as well as the hue & saturation of the 6 base colours (Red, Green, Blue, Yellow, Magenta, & Cyan) separately. It opens up over 800 million times more choices than a conventional colour management. With this function, users have great flexibility to achieve the optimal colour combination according to individual preference.

HDMI Interface
High Definition Multimedia Interface (HDMI) is the industry-first uncompressed, all-digital video and audio connection which supports high definition video signals and multi-channel audio signals. HDMI combines the advantages of originality, high picture quality, user-friendliness, and compatibility into one advance digital cable and terminal. The combination of HDMI and Toshiba's Meta Brain Pro reproduces the desirable true-to-life digital picture quality.

SRS WOW
Enjoy true home theater experience with the built-in SRS WOW sound system. SRS WOW is a combination of three unique sound field enhancements. SRS Front Surround creates a wider sound field. SRS TruBass boosts bass frequency perception for more dramatic low frequency effects. And, SRS FOCUS enhances the precise localization and clarity of sound based on the standard speaker system.

AUTOMATIC CENTRE
Tel. No.: 705-1382 to 89 / 893-6543 to 44
G4
Tel. Nos.: 729-6450 to 52
ABENSON
Tel. Nos.: 819-5663 / 722-1261
AVANT
Tel Nos : 758-2315 to 20
WESTERN MARKETING
Tel. Nos.: 889-8746 to 49 / 634-1733
727-4187

WORLDWIDE AUDIO VIDEO HOME APPLIANCES
Tel Nos.: 241-3446 to 48 / 243-1838 to 39
MAX VISION
Tel Nos.: 723-3322 / 723-3366
SPECTRA AUDIO VIDEO CENTER
Tel No.: 818-5493
PACIFIC ELECTRONICS
Tel Nos.: 733-1734 / 536-4035
ROBINSONS APPLIANCES
Tel. Nos.: 529-8110 / 637-8352 to 53

AV SURFER
Tel. Nos.: 807-3541 / 898-1833
SOGO Home & Office Center
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Tel. Nos.: 374-8669 to 71
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Tel. Nos.: 244-6663 / 242-1546

J & R APPLIANCE CENTER
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IMAGE VIDEO TRADING CORP.
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AMBASSADOR APPLIANCE, INC.
Tel Nos.: 633-9592 / 633-5224;
AUDIO VISUAL DRIVER INTERNATIONAL INC.
Tel. Nos.: 638-8480 / 632-7984
HI-END
Tel. No.: 410-1020

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AVID AV SURFER Cebu
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TRONIX MASTER
Tel Nos.: 414-9239 / 743-9094
UPSONIC Electronics Services
Cebu City
Tel. No.: (032) 413-9817

BR ELECTRONICS
Cor Burgos Lopez Jaena St.,
Bacolod City
Tel Nos.: (034) 434-8624

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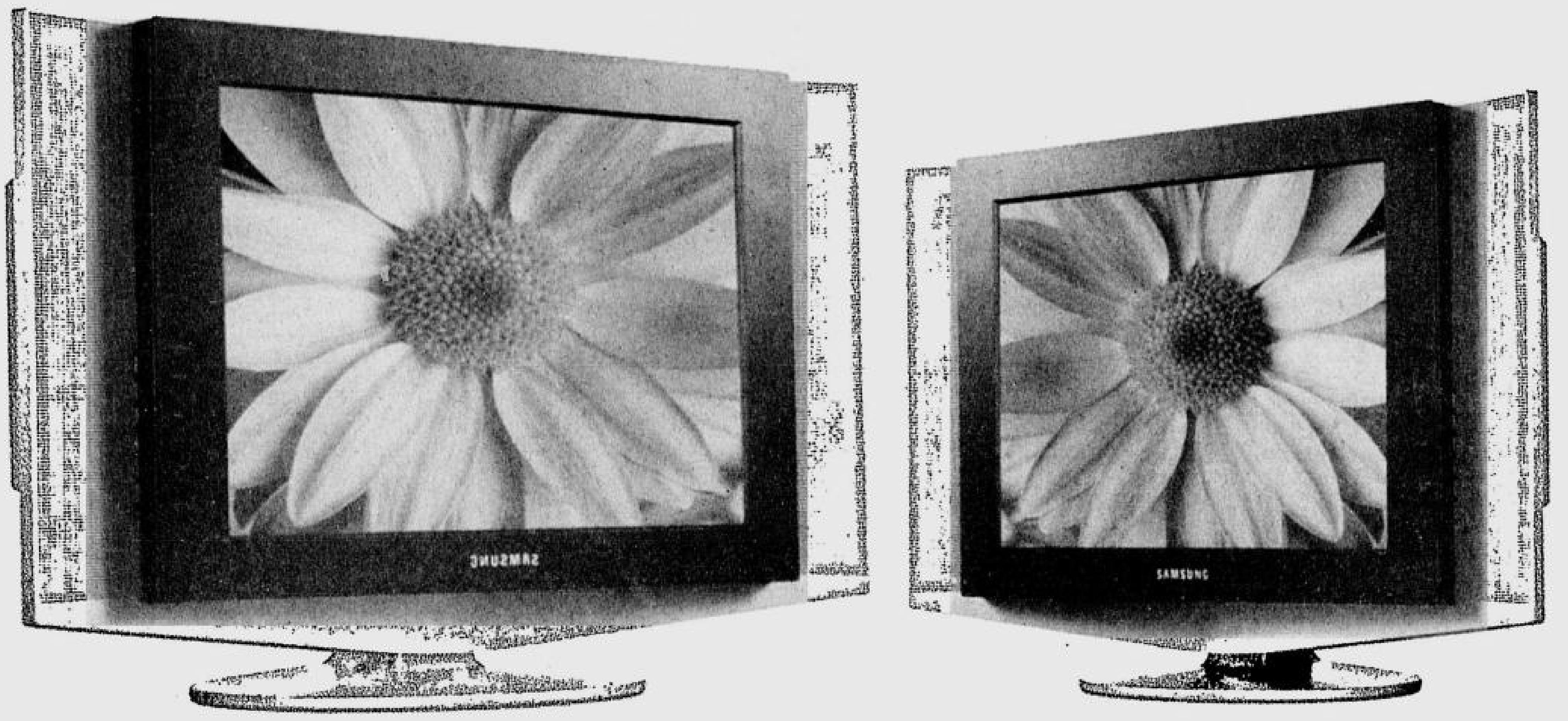
SAMSUNG

ABENSON

SEE DOUBLE



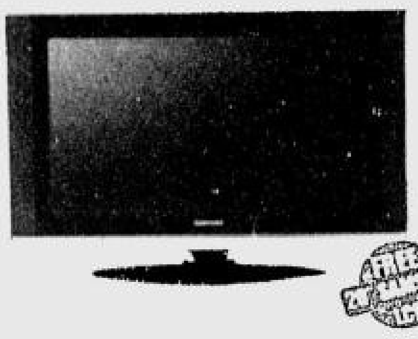
Buy a Samsung LCD and get a 20" LCD absolutely FREE! *

IRRESISTABLE SAMSUNG DEALS

0% interest installment up to 12 months • FREE WALL BRACKET
Samsung Home Theater for only P5000

CHECK OUT SAMSUNG'S WIDE LCD LINEUP

Samsung LCD LA-32M61
32" LCD
5000:1 Contrast Ratio
8 second response time
HDMI Digital Interface
SRS Tru Surround
149,900 cash
12492/mo for 12mos.
0%
12mos

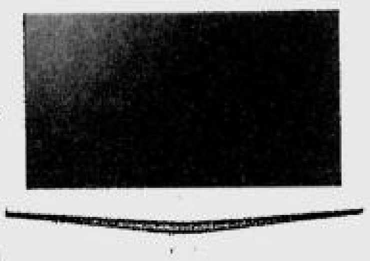


Samsung LCD LA-40S71
40" LCD TV
3000:1 Contrast Ratio
PIF / Double Screen
SRS Tru Surround
164,900 cash
13742/mo for 12mos.
0%
12mos

Samsung LCD LA-40M61
40" LCD
5000:1 Contrast Ratio
8 second response time
SRS Tru Surround XT
219,900 cash
18325/mo for 12mos.
0%
12mos

Samsung LCD LA-40R71B
40" LCD
5000:1 Contrast Ratio
Game mode / PIF /
Double Screen
SRS Tru Surround XT
179,900 cash
14992/mo for 12mos.
0%
12mos

Samsung LCD LA-46M51
46"
3000:1 Contrast Ratio
PIF / Double Screen
SRS Tru Surround
249,900 cash
20825/mo for 12mos.
0%
12mos



Samsung LCD LA-32R71W
32" LCD
5000:1 Contrast Ratio
Game Mode / PIF /
Double Screen
SRS Tru Surround XT
109,900 cash
9158/mo for 12mos.
0%
12mos

0% installment applicable provided monthly bill is paid in full. FREE LCD promotions applicable on selected models.
Promo valid until September 30,2006

PER DTI NCR Permit No 4063 Series of 2006

VISIT AN ABENSON STORE NOW!

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Angeles	(045) 888-9086
Avant	752-2315/19/20
Batangas	(043) 723-6790
Biñan	(049) 411-4511
Cabanatuan	(044) 464-1482
Cainta 1	645-0402 to 04
Cainta 2	681-5301to 05
Calamba	(049) 545-7034
Carmona	(046)430-2701/04
Commonwealth	951-8976/8991
Dasmariñas	(046) 416-2104/5287
Dau	(045) 892-4295
Ermita	400-0248/49
Congressional	927-9390/9520
Fairview	939-7906/7810
Farmers	911-1103/1494
Filinvest	850-3775
Galleria	632-9101/05/9117
Gapan	(044) 486-7649
General Trias	(046) 419-1148/1150
Glorietta 1	818-8453
Harrison Plaza	521-8560/69
Imus	(046) 471-8020/30
Jaka	829-2686/87
Kalookan	363-3346/5338
Las Piñas	872-0576/77
Libis	687-1613/1698
Lipa	(043) 404-1551
Lotus	(046) 515-5749/51
Lucena	(042) 373-0443
Makati	812-2882/1584
Malabon	287-0478/0344
Metropoint	833-7685/7829
Metropolis	809-8174/8921
Missouri	722-1264/4187
Pasig	656-6643/47
Pearl Plaza	851-8401/03
Plaridel	(044) 795-3271
Quezon City	724-2570/2501
Riverbanks	941-5003/5191
SM City, N.E.	920-9151/53
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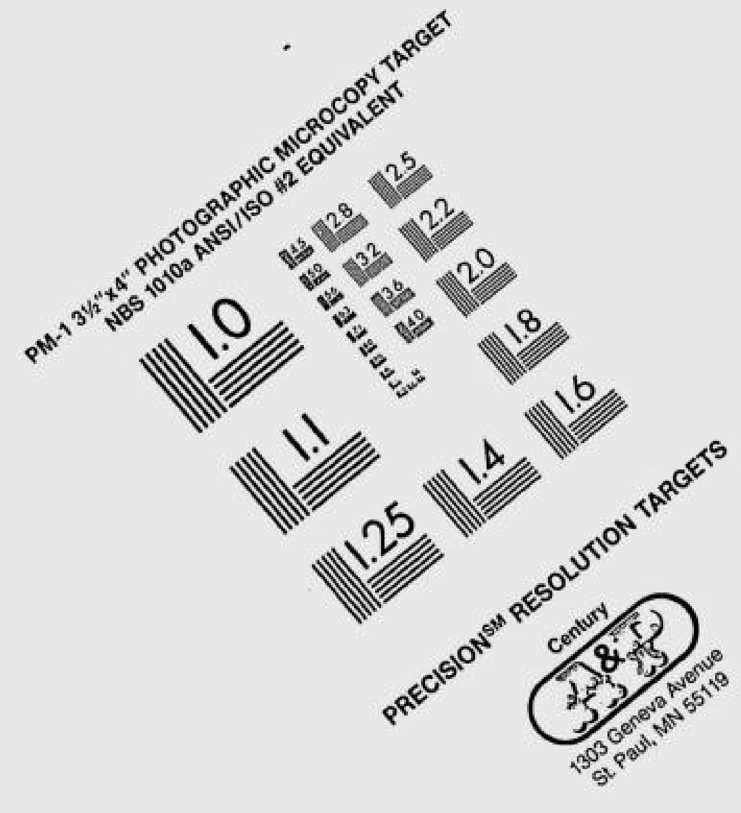
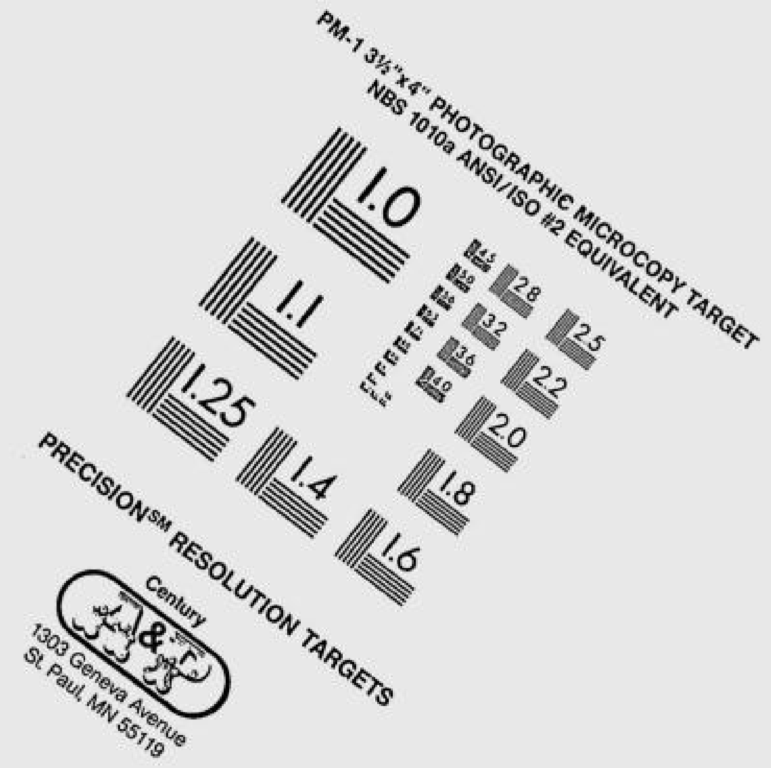
Sta Rosa	(049) 534-4669/4619
St. Francis	633-1362/64
Tarlac	(045) 985-1278/1253
Tayuman	252-5787/98/86
The Fort	886-6620/6491/92
Valenzuela	277-9536/38/39
Showroom	631-5188
LCC-Naga	(054) 473-6003
Pacific Mall -Legazpi	(052) 480-6266
LCC-Legazpi	(052) 480-7949


PM-1 3½"x4" PHOTOGRAPHIC MICROCOPY TARGET
NBS 1010a ANSI/ISO #2 EQUIVALENT
1.0
1.1
1.25
1.4
1.6
1.8
2.0
2.2
2.5
2.8
3.2
3.6
4.0
PRECISIONSM RESOLUTION TARGETS
Century
1303 Geneva Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55119


PM-1 3½"x4" PHOTOGRAPHIC MICROCOPY TARGET
NBS 1010a ANSI/ISO #2 EQUIVALENT
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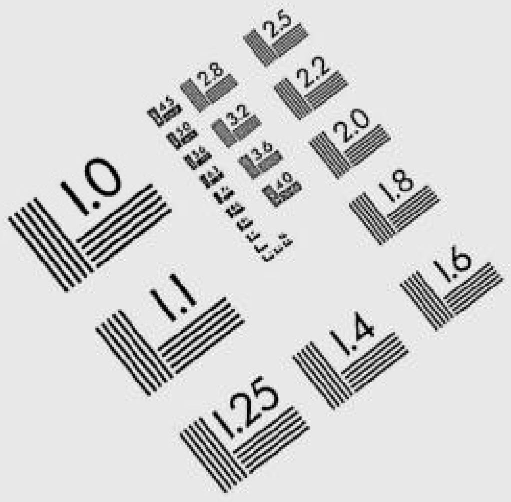
PRECISIONSM RESOLUTION TARGETS
Century
1303 Geneva Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55119

IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)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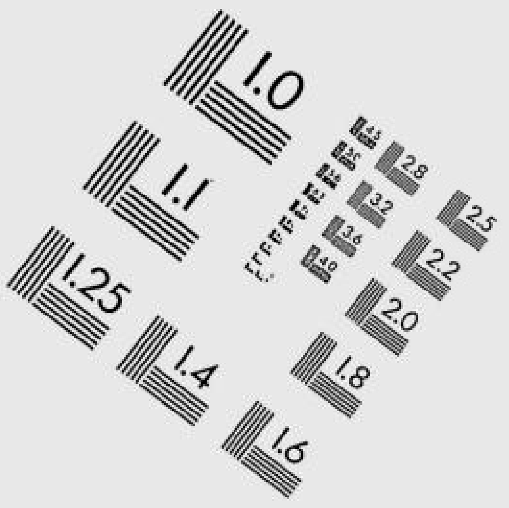
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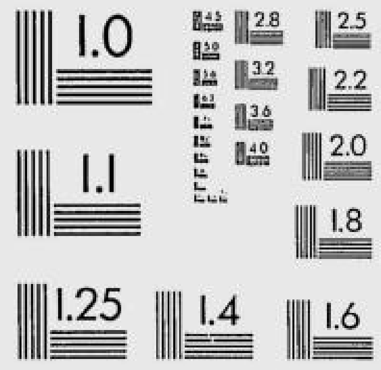
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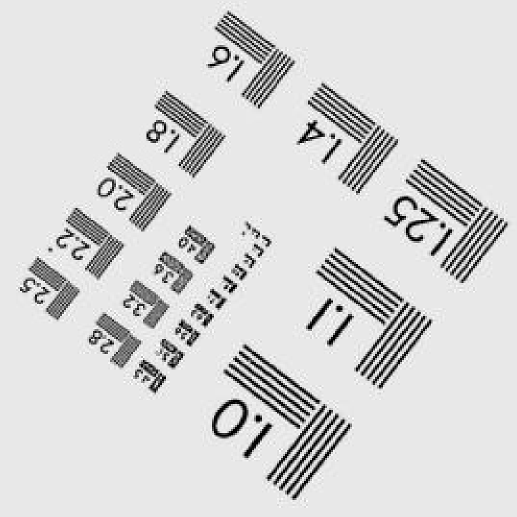
1.1
1.25
1.4
1.6
1.8
2.0
2.2
2.5
2.8
3.2
3.6
4.0

150mm

6"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2.0
2.2
2.5

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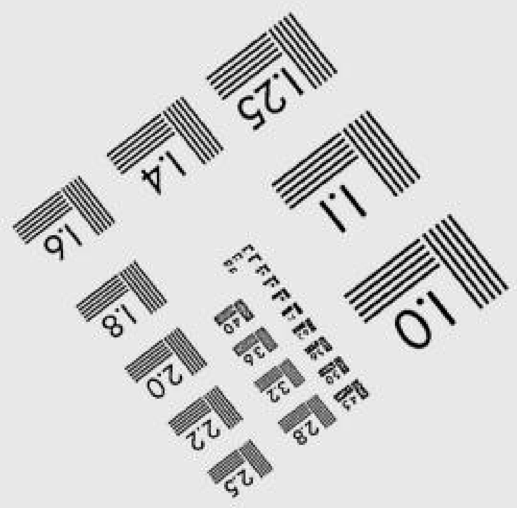
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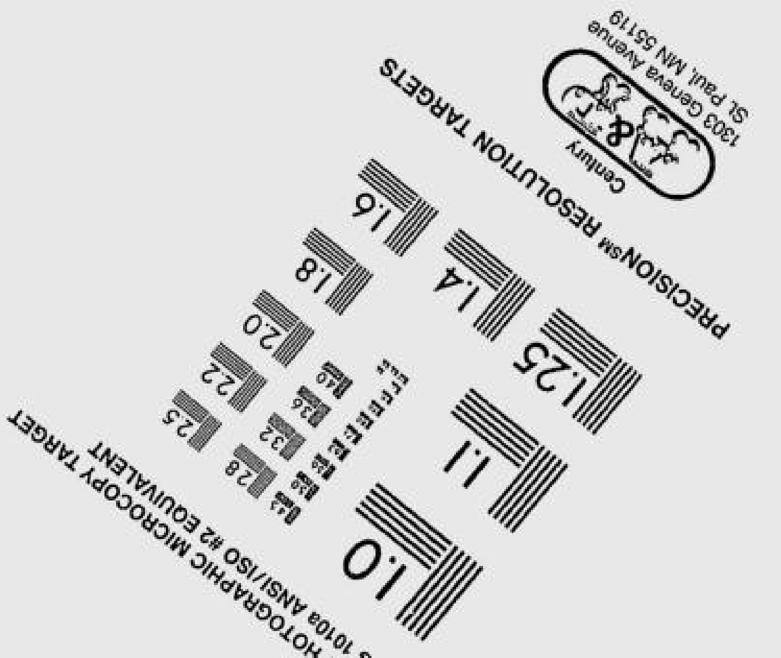
PRECISIONSM RESOLUTION TARGETS
Century
1303 Geneva Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55119
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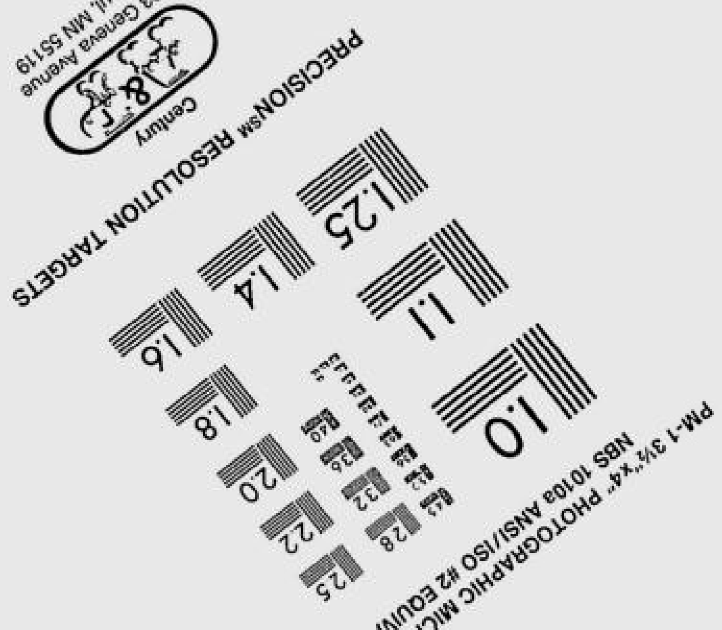
PRECISIONSM RESOLUTION TARGETS
Century
1303 Geneva Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55119
1.0
1.1
1.25
1.4
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1.8
2.0
2.2
2.5

PHILIPPINE
DAILY INQUIRER
MANILA, PHILIPPINES

SEPTEMBER
1 THRU 15
2006

REEL 388

END

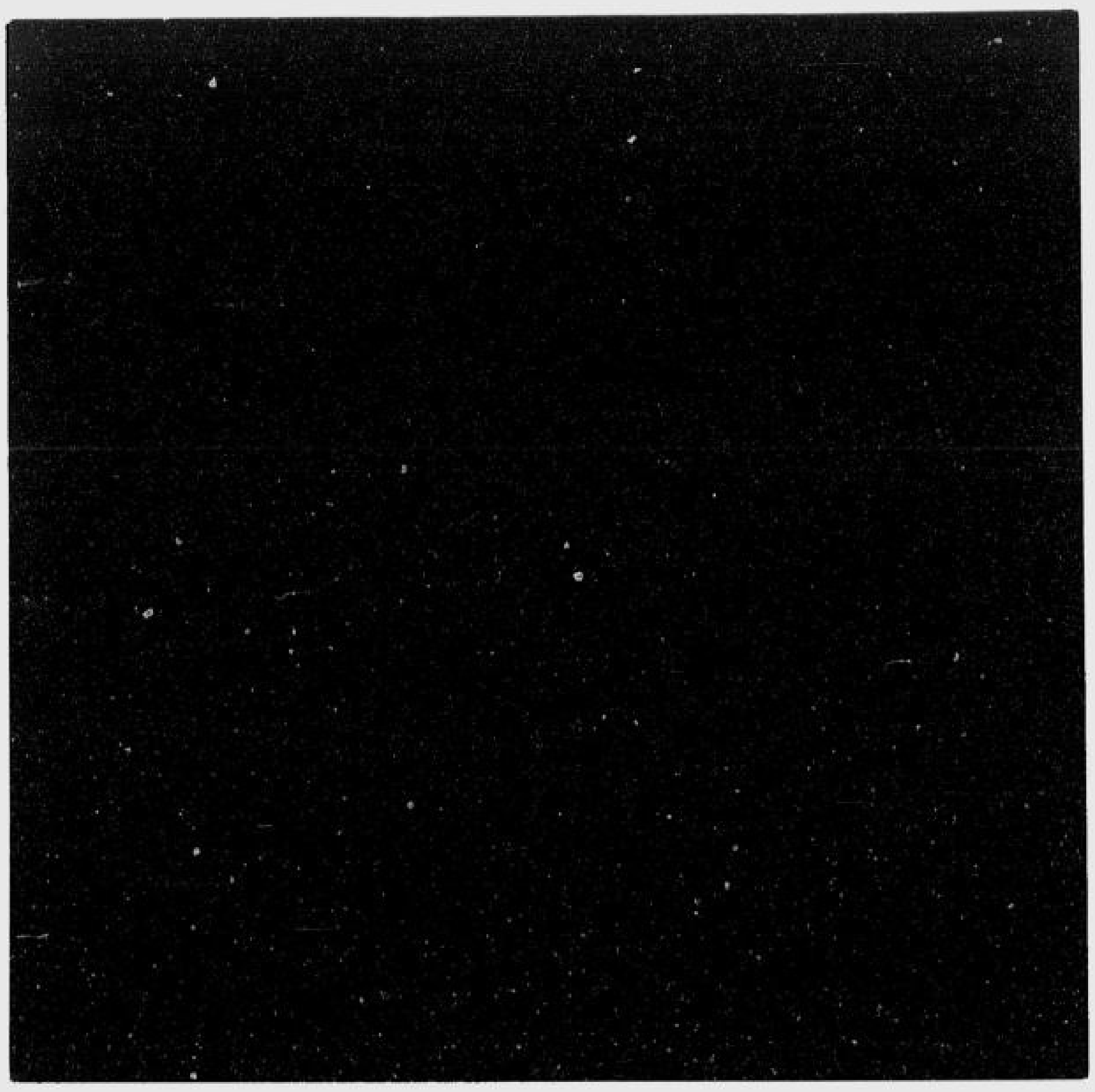
PLEASE REWIND

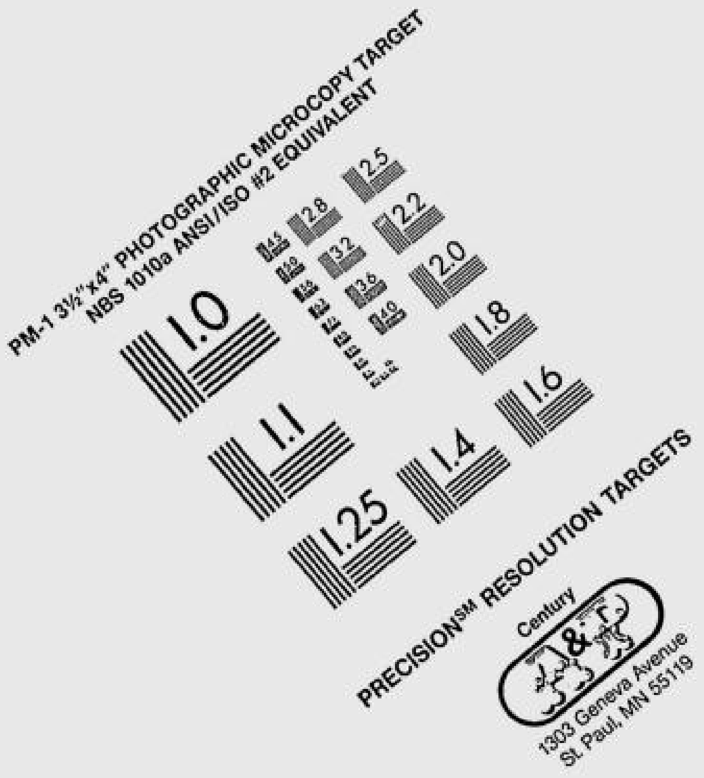
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, PHILIPPINES

SEPTEMBER
16 THRU 30
2006

REEL 389

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2.2
2.5
2.8
3.2
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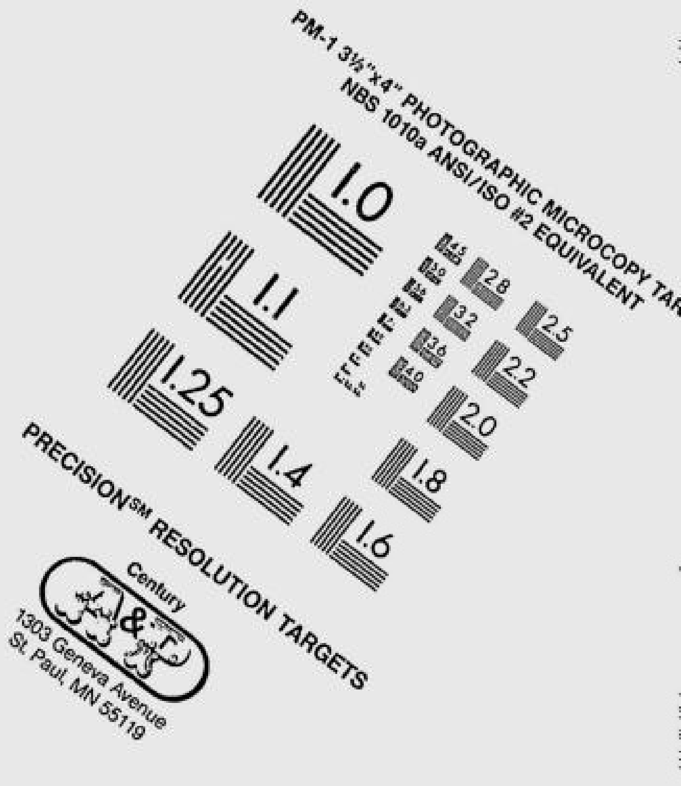
6.3
PRECISIONSM RESOLUTION TARGETS
Century
1303 Geneva Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55119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1.8
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2.2
2.5
2.8
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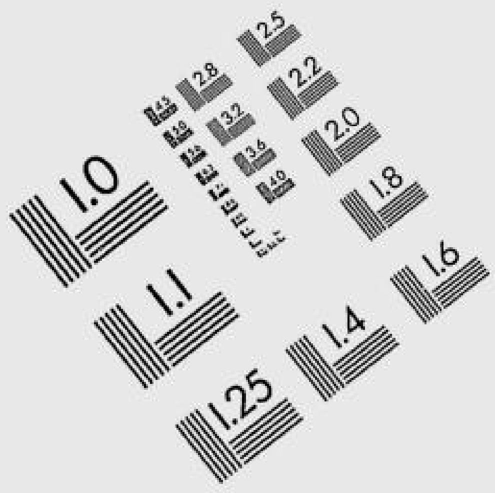
PRECISIONSM RESOLUTION TARGETS
Century
1303 Geneva Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55119

IMAGE EVALUATION TEST TARGET (MT-3)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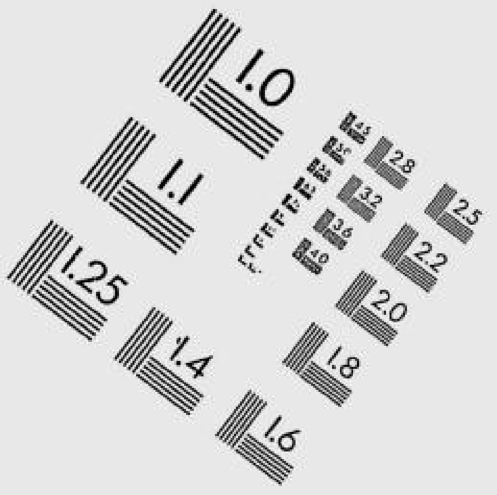
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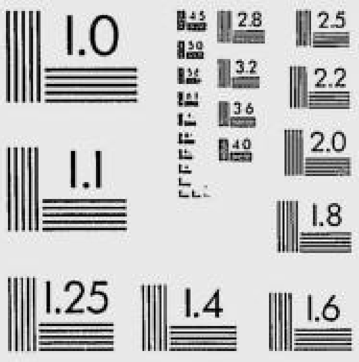
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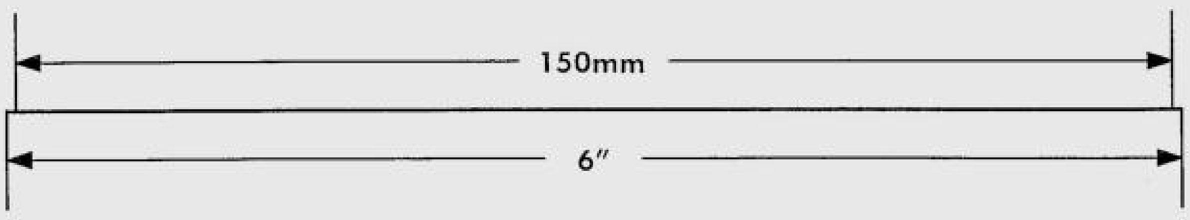

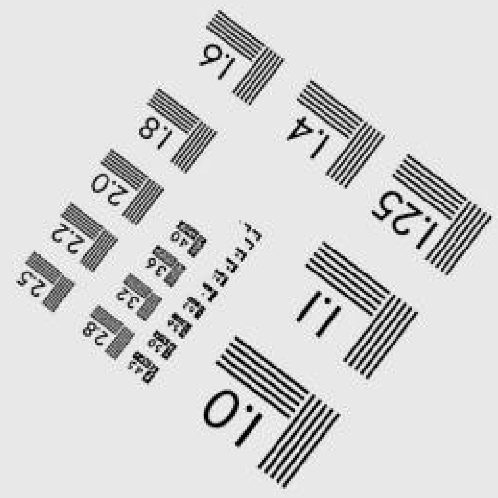
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1.8
2.0
2.2
2.5
2.8
3.2
3.6
4.0

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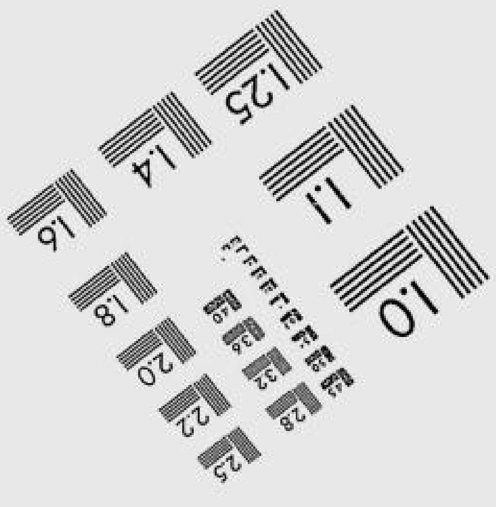
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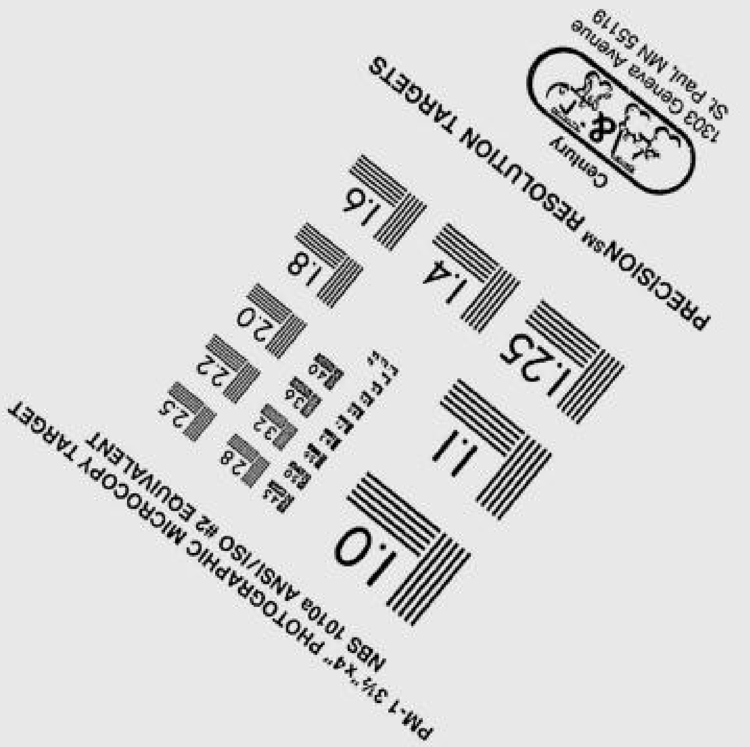
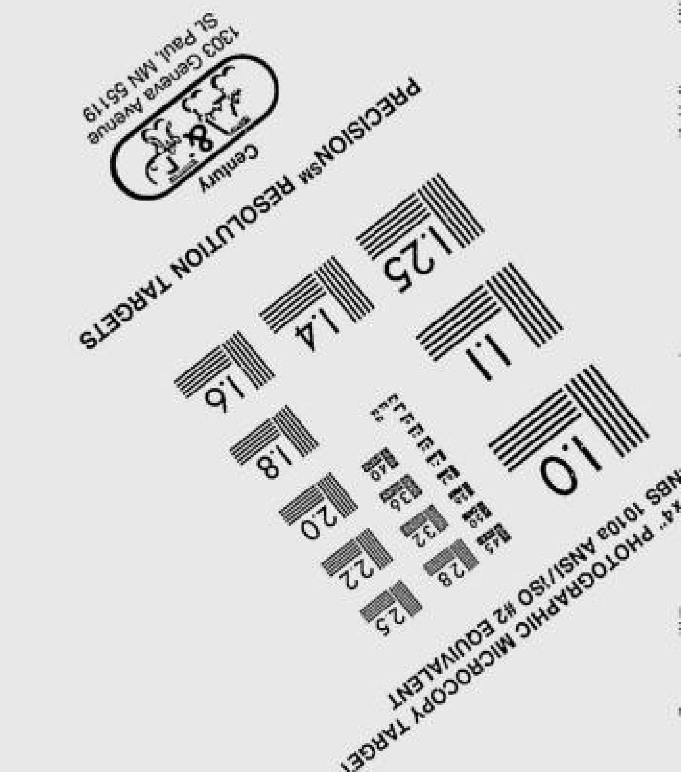

PM-1 3½"x4" PHOTOGRAPHIC MICROCOPY TARGET
NBS 1010a ANSI/ISO #2 EQUIVALENT
PRECISIONSM RESOLUTION TARGETS
Century
1303 Geneva Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55119


PM-1 3½"x4" PHOTOGRAPHIC MICROCOPY TARGET
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PRECISIONSM RESOLUTION TARGETS
Century
1303 Geneva Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55119